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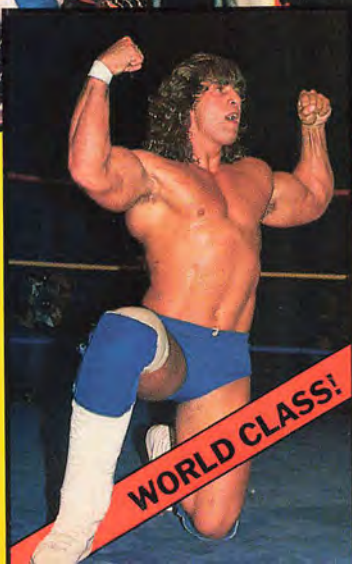
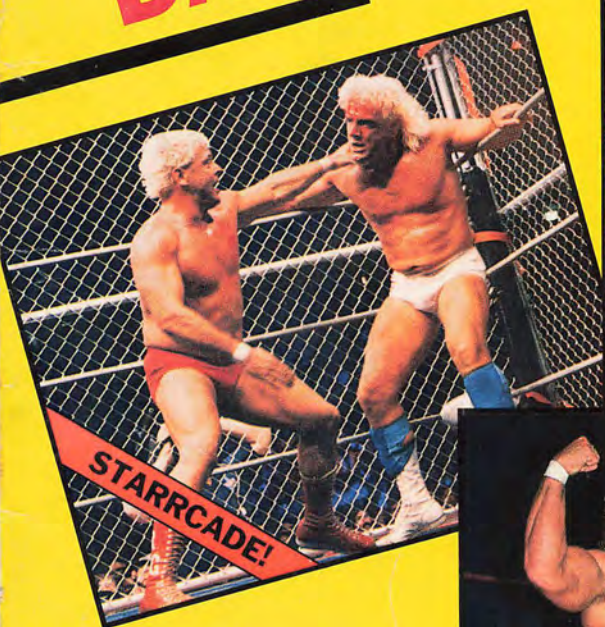
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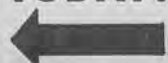
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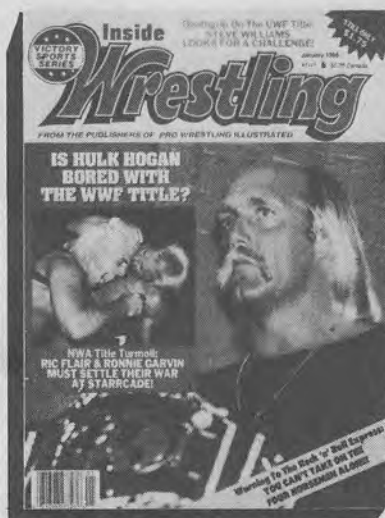
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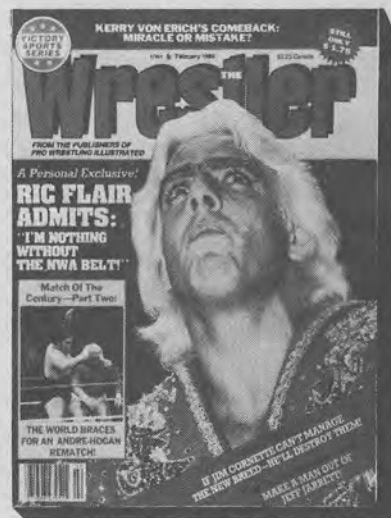
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YOUR LETTERS

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LEAVE MISSY ALONE

Boy, can you guys really get under someone's skin! Must you *always* pick on Missy Hyatt in your "Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down" column?

First, in the September 1987 issue, you gave her a "thumbs down" for her brilliant career move of *leaving* the WWF. Now, in the January 1988 issue, you gave her another "thumbs down" for biased announcing. So what? Who *isn't* biased these days (except Gordon Solie and Lance Russell, maybe)? Why the heck haven't you criticized David Crockett lately? He could add incredible vocals to our high school cheerleading squad.

Wise up, guys! Wake up and smell the blood on the mat! Missy Hyatt is a breath of fresh air and gives much delight to fans who need a change of pace from just plain "commentating."

JOE DURAN JR.
Aurora, IL

HE'S THE TOTAL MAN

He may have taken a beating at Starrcade and the loss of his U.S. title to Dusty Rhodes, but "The Total Package" Lex Luger has finally seen the light. He doesn't need to break rules to win matches. He could have beaten Nikita Koloff for the title without a chair (though J.J. Dillon gave it



Missy Hyatt interviews Tully Blanchard, Arn Anderson, and J.J. Dillon. Reader Joe Duran thinks this magazine is too critical of Hyatt and not appreciative enough of the fresh perspective she brings to commentating.

to him), and he would have beaten Dusty if not for a chair (again thrown in by Dillon).

We all make mistakes. Joining the Horsemen was a quick way to the top—an easy road—but it was good for Luger to train and learn from three veterans. Now he needs to make friends with Barry Windham. He needs friends like that to watch his back, because the Horsemen, especially Dillon, are the worst thing to have on your train.

JEFF STEEN
Seattle

LOOK FOR THE SUBSTANCE

This letter is addressed to all the people who do not like NWA World champion Ric Flair. I think the reason you don't like him is because you refuse to separate your feelings for him as a wrestler and as a person.

Ric Flair is probably *the* most arrogant, stuck-up, rulebreaking wrestler around today—not to mention the way he acts on national TV. But the fact still remains that he is also an excellent wrestler. You cannot continue to say Flair is not a good wrestler,

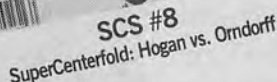
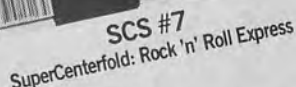
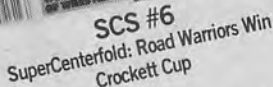
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WHAT'S HAPPENING!

By BILL APTER

THANKSGIVING 1987 WAS one of the most significant days in wrestling history, as you can learn in depth in our special section this issue. But Christmas 1987 also had its share of important events.

World Class had a big show at Reunion Arena. Prior to **Kerry Von Erich's** match against World Class champion **Al Perez**, **Fritz Von Erich** was jumped by **Freebirds Terry Gordy** and **Buddy Roberts**, **The Angel of Death**, and **Iceman Parsons**. Fritz was supposed to be handcuffed to **Gary Hart**, manager of Perez, during the bout. Gordy came to the ring with Roberts, Parsons, and The Angel of Death so he could issue a challenge to the winner. The four men knocked down Kerry and, as Gordy beat him up, the others handcuffed Fritz to the ropes. They beat him with a cane and a chair while Hart and Perez stood in their corner looking on.

Kevin Von Erich, who was showing after his six-man tag team title match, ran in and cleared the ring. Then Kerry and Kevin helped their father out of the ring where Fritz collapsed and had to be taken on a stretcher to Baylor University Medical Center. Fritz suffered head, neck, and hip injuries, and



Kerry Von Erich (right) and brother Kevin help their father Fritz Von Erich out of the ring after a vicious attack at the hands of the "New" Freebirds. Moments later, Fritz collapsed and had to be taken out of the arena on a stretcher.

was released from Baylor two days later.

As for the match itself (which, by the way, was delayed until Kerry returned from the hospital), Kerry wrestled halfheartedly and was pinned by Perez after 25 minutes. Hart was handcuffed to the ropes

but managed to interfere by extending the handcuff chain while referee **Rick Hazzard** was knocked out. Perez slammed Kerry's head into the handcuffs and covered the dazed Von Erich for the pin.

"My heart just wasn't into it,"

(Continued on page 58)



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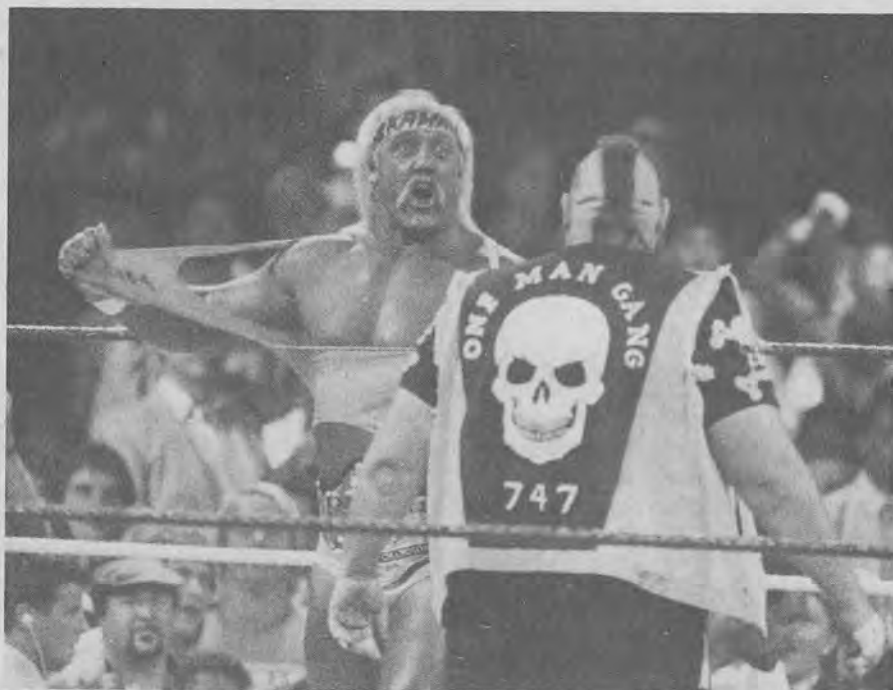
REPORTS

Philadelphia, PA (Correspondent—George Schaefer): In the main event at The Spectrum, Hulk Hogan defended his WWF World title against One Man Gang. Hogan took an early offensive but was unable to move the bulky Gang. A Hogan bodyslam backfired and One Man Gang fell on top of him and almost got the three-count.

Gang then took over. He hampered Hogan to the mat then threw him out of the ring. When the action returned to the ring, Gang continued his assault. The champ briefly regained the advantage, but interference by Slick allowed OMG to take control once again. He laughed confidently while attacking Hogan, but was unable to gain a pinfall—even after a “747” splash.

Hogan finally gained the momentum and came back. He rammed the Gang from turnbuckle to turnbuckle and then delivered a bodyslam. He followed with a legdrop and covered Gang for the pin.

In other bouts: Bam Bam Bigelow defeated King Kong Bundy after Andre the Giant interfered and Hogan came out to help Bigelow ... Strike Force beat The Islanders ... Hercules Hernandez defeated Junkyard Dog ... Jake Roberts pinned



Hulk Hogan characteristically rips his shirt off in anticipation of a showdown with One Man Gang. In a match at The Spectrum in Philadelphia, “The Hulkster” recovered from OMG’s “747” splash and pinned him with a legdrop.

Sika ... Dino Bravo beat Hillbilly Jim ... The British Bulldogs beat The Bolsheviks ... The Ultimate Warrior defeated Iron Mike Sharpe ... Outback Jack beat Barry Horowitz.

Baltimore, MD (Correspondent—Michael Ehlers): As Michael “P.S.” Hayes and NWA World champion Ric Flair prepared to lock up after the opening bell in the main event at the Baltimore Arena, Flair smoothed his hair and did his walk. They went

to lock up again and Hayes did his walk. Finally, the two men got together. Hayes put Flair in a headlock and kept him in it for two minutes before Ric grabbed his hair. Flair picked up Hayes, threw him out of the ring, and rammed his head into the ringpost.

Flair then put Hayes in a figure-four leglock and grabbed the ropes for leverage. Hayes reversed it and threw Flair into the ringpost. Flair then dove off the

(Continued on page 56)

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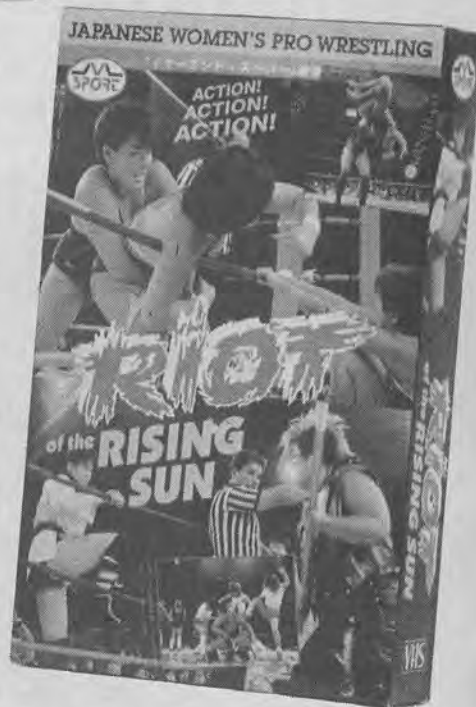
(running time: approximately 70 minutes)

- Wendi Richter & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Okumura
- Nancy Kumi vs. Lucy Kayama
- Monster Ripper & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Mimi Hagiwara
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. Tarantula
- "Crush Girl" Lioness Asuka vs. "Crush Girl" Chigusa Nagayo

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Riot Of The Rising Sun

(running time: approximately 70 minutes)

- Yukari Omori & Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori vs. Noriyo Tatenos & Itysuki Yamasaki—"The Jumping Bomb Angels"
- Masked You & Kaoru "Dump" Matsumoto vs. Lioness Asuka & Chigusa Nagayo—"The Crush Girls"
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. Las Galactia
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. "Devil" Masami

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Q: "My question is for the 'Nature Boy' Ric Flair: You have definitely proven that you are the greatest wrestler ever to set foot in the ring, but now that you have wiped up every decent wrestler, are you going to retire?"—Steve Hall, Richmond, VA

A: "I'll leave all talk of retirement to Dusty Rhodes," Flair replied. "The thought of quitting hasn't even crossed my mind yet. I'm still in my prime. Why should I give it all



Five-time NWA World champion Ric Flair won't even think about retiring now that he's once again at the top of the sport.

up so some second-rater can become champion? I may have this belt for 10 or 20 more years. I may retire with it; then they'll have to hold a tournament to decide a new champion. I almost feel sorry for the man who follows me as champion. He'll have to run himself ragged trying to live up to the standards I've set. How can any mortal man accomplish what I have?"

Q: "I have a question for the world's greatest manager, Paul E. Dangerously: Since your team, The Midnight Express, won the AWA World tag team title, I think you should defend against the other so-called Midnight Express and prove that your team is number one.

YOU ASKED US

Here's the monthly feature which **YOU** get to write! It's your chance to have a top wrestler answer **YOUR** questions!

Only the best questions will be answered—so put on your thinking caps and come up with some good ones!

Address your questions—and who you would like to have answer them—to:

YOU ASKED US, c/o THE WRESTLER,
PO Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571.

Questions will be answered only in this column and at our discretion.

You're all man; Jim Cornette is all wimp!"—Christina Cannici, East Haven, CT

A: "If it were up to me, kid," Dangerously said, "I'd sign the match

in two seconds, but we have to recognize the virtual impossibility of an inter-federational match. As I've said time and again, I have absolutely no doubt that 'Loverboy' Dennis and 'Ravishing' Randy would destroy the younger and greener version of The Midnight Express. After all, we are the *World* tag team champions, are we not?"

Q: "My question is for Larry Zbyszko: Why is it that you, having never relied on a manager or valet before, are now accompanied by Baby Doll?"—Rich Palladino, Reading, PA

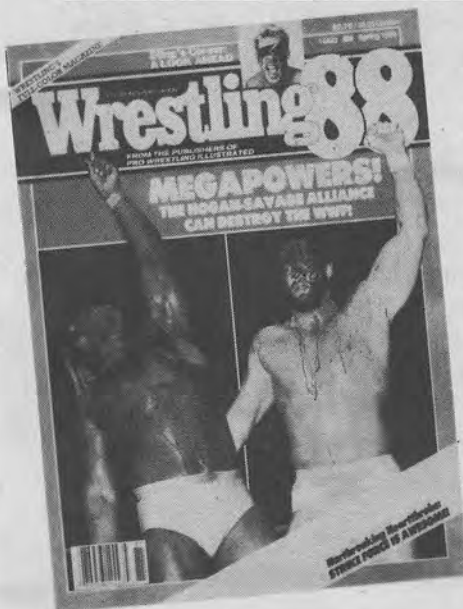
A: "Let me tell you and everybody else why I chose Baby Doll," Zbyszko said. "The woman knows more about wrestling than any 10 managers I've ever encountered. She has detailed information on every one of my potential opponents, especially that geek Barry Windham, who may as well give me that Western States title before he really gets hurt. Baby Doll also lives up to my personal standard of excellence."
(Continued on page 57)



Baby Doll returned to wrestling so she could manage Larry Zbyszko, whose main goal is to win the Western States title held by Barry Windham.

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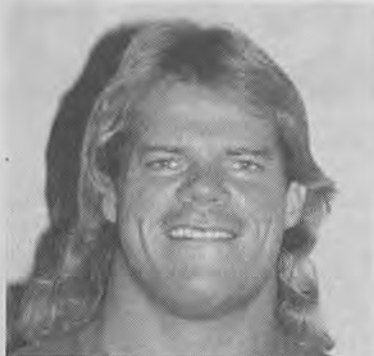
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Thumbs Up

Each issue, *The Wrestler* will praise the noteworthy and damn those who violate the honor of wrestling. The praiseworthy receive a Thumbs Up, the disgraceful are marked with a Thumbs Down. Here is this month's roll of honor and shame.



Thumbs Up to Lex Luger. One year ago, the young superstar made the worst move of his short career when he joined The Four Horsemen. But just a few days after losing his U.S. title to Dusty Rhodes—thanks to the interference of manager J.J. Dillon—Luger finally broke away from this heartless band of criminals. Now, the 1986 Rookie of the Year will have the chance to achieve his great potential . . . on his own! Luger was wasted with the Horsemen; he was used for Dillon's personal gains. On a recent interview, Luger said he's his own man. And what a man he is!



Thumbs Up to Jerry Lawler. "The King's" incredible year was highlighted on December 7 in Memphis when he won a tournament to unify the AWA Southern, Mid-America, and International titles into the Championship Wrestling Alliance championship. First, Lawler defeated Mid-American champ Jeff Jarrett in a thrilling scientific match. Then, the AWA Southern champ beat International champion Manny Fernandez in a ferocious brawl. This was a tremendous achievement. After all these years, Lawler is still among the best in the game!



Thumbs Up to Kevin Von Erich. Never let it be said that Kevin Von Erich doesn't love his brother Kerry. Kevin was scheduled to wrestle Al Perez on Christmas Day for the World Class heavyweight title but decided to give Kerry the chance instead. He certainly didn't have to do this. Kevin, who forfeited the belt to Perez last summer, has earned every title shot he gets. But Kerry embarked on a long comeback trail to return to wrestling. And Kevin decided to reward him with the greatest Christmas present of all: a show of brotherly love and a chance at immortality.

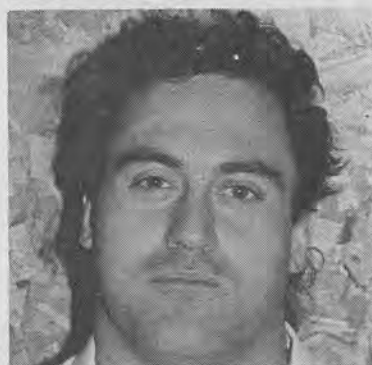


Thumbs Up to Bam Bam Bigelow. The agile 368-pound monster-man from Mt. Laurel, New Jersey, turned in an incredible performance at the Survivor Series on Thanksgiving Day. In the main event, Bigelow faced a three-on-one against King Kong Bundy, One Man Gang, and Andre the Giant, a trio of the biggest men in wrestling. But Bigelow courageously held off their assault, eliminating Bundy and Gang before falling prey to fatigue and Andre. Earlier in the card, The Honky Tonk Man displayed his cowardice by walking out of a similar situation. Bigelow, however, showed that he won't back down from anything.

Thumbs Down



Thumbs Down to Ted DiBiase. The integrity of the WWF World title has not been tarnished. The belt is still firmly strapped around Hulk Hogan's waist. But don't thank Ted DiBiase for this. The "Million Dollar Man," who thinks he can buy anybody and anything, made an appalling offer to buy the belt from "The Hulkster." What nerve! Doesn't he realize that the belt is only worth as much as the person wearing it? Doesn't he know that the belt must be won, not bought? Obviously not, and now DiBiase is planning to buy the belt from Andre the Giant if Andre beats Hulk Hogan. Shameful! Let's all pray it never happens.



Thumbs Down to Mike Rotundo. Wrestling fans are asked to pay an awful price for their enjoyment. They're asked to give their hearts and souls to a particular wrestler, usually an unimpeachable individual who follows the rules, respects the fans, and would rather lose a clean match than win a dirty one. Then, this supposed fan favorite turns around and spits in the fans' faces. This time, it's Florida champion Mike Rotundo, an outstanding scientific wrestler and dogooder. When he and Kevin Sullivan combined to double-team Nikita Koloff, we were shocked! Isn't anybody free from evil? Must the fans always suffer?



Thumbs Down to Bobby Heenan. The headlines should be screaming, "WEASEL KIDNAPS DOG!" Yes, this devious, dishonest, and positively gutless manager has sunk lower than ever by kidnaping Mathilda, faithful mascot of The British Bulldogs. Of course, he had some help: The Islanders were in on this underhanded scheme. But Heenan engineered the crime. He was behind the plot. How can a person sink so low as to take away man's best friend? Why doesn't Heenan take his frustration out on the Bulldogs, not their loveable pet? WWF President Jack Tunney suspended The Islanders. He should've suspended Heenan.

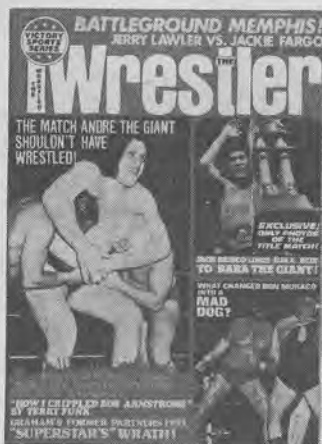


Thumbs Down to Kevin Kelly. This month's roll of shame is particularly disturbing. We have a man who tried to buy a world championship. We have another who turned his back on the fans. Yet another who kidnapped a dog. And now, we have the most dispicable individual of all: Kevin Kelly, who interfered in a woman's match between his valet, Medusa Meceli, and Candi Divine. Whoever heard of a man interfering in a woman's match? Kelly must have absolutely no respect for himself. He's sunk to a level where he thinks it's necessary to bully a member of the opposite sex. How disgustingly vile! Kelly is a wimp! ☐



THE Wrestler

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JUNE 1975

June 1975/Stories include: Andre, Muraco, Funk, Lawler.

August 1975/Stories include: Sammartino, Patterson, Stasiak, Rivera.

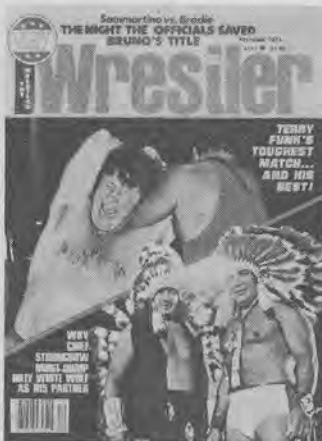
December 1975/Stories include: Mascaras, Rhodes, McDaniel, Blackjacks.

February 1976/Stories include: Andre, Sammartino, Rhodes, Valentine.

July 1976/Stories include: Andre, Wrestling II, Inoki, Von Erich.

November 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Valentine, Mosca.

December 1976/Stories include: Von Erich, Mulligan, Brody, Funk.



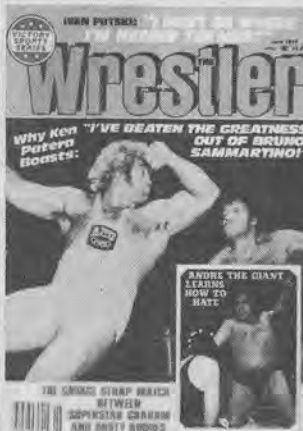
DECEMBER 1976

January 1977/Stories include: Brody, Andre, Wrestling II, Mascaras.

February 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Jones, Funk, Von Raschke.

April 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Funk, Flair, Bockwinkel.

May 1977/Stories include: Mascaras, Valiants, Andersons, Sammartino.



JUNE 1977

June 1977/Stories include: Patera, Putski, Hernandez, McDaniel.

July 1977/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Rocca, Mascaras.

October 1977/Stories include: Rhodes, Sammartino, Flair, Snuka.

November 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Slater, Mascaras, Snuka.

September 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Grahams, Andre, Mascaras.

October 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Backlund, McDaniel, Race.

November 1978/Stories include: Flair, Andre, Ladd, Graham.

December 1978/Stories include: Brisco, Mulligan, Andre, Blanchard.

February 1979/Stories include: Ladd, Flair, Idol, Heenan.

May 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Brody, Valiants, Race.

July 1979/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Sammartino, Andre.

August 1979/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Patera, Stevens, Superstar.

September 1979/Stories include: Superstar Gramham, Cyclone Negro, Greg Gagne, Mil Mascaras.

October 1979/Stories include: Flair, Valentine, Santana, Muraco.

December 1979/Stories include: Andre, Graham, Rhodes, Mascaras.

January 1980/Stories include: Race, Backlund, Snuka, Brisco.

February 1980/Stories include: Andre, Flair, DiBiase, Superstar.

March 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Andre.

April 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, DiBiase, Youngblood, Wrestling II.

May 1980/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Bockwinkel, Patera.

June 1980/Stories include: Backlund, Abdullah, Brisco, Flair.

August 1980/Stories include: Valentine, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Albano.

September 1980/Stories include: Ladd, Patera, Steamboat, Gagne.

October 1980/Stories include: Patera, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Morales.

January 1981/Stories include: Valentine, Rhodes, Patera, Von Erich.

February 1981/Stories include: Zbyszko, Patera, Iron Sheik, Wrestling II.

March 1981/Stories include: Rich, Samoans, Blassie, Wrestling II.

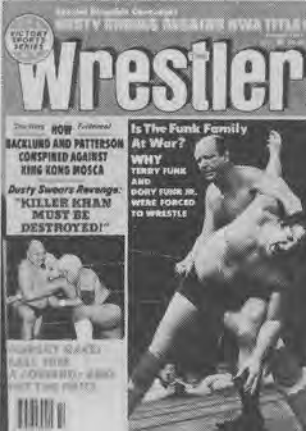
May 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, DiBiase, Moondogs.

June 1981/Stories include: Sammartino, Piper, Rich, Martel.

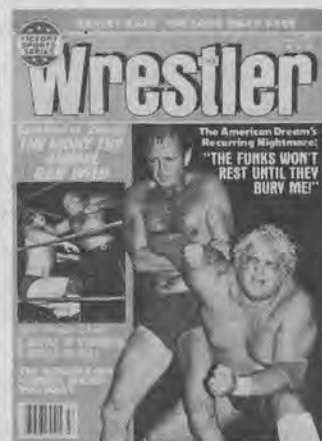
July 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Flair, Atlas.

August 1981/Stories include: DiBiase, Slaughter, Martel, Idol.

October 1981/Stories include: Funks, Rhodes, Race, Sullivan.



OCTOBER 1981



DECEMBER 1981

December 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Steele, Race, Hogan.

January 1982/Stories include: Rich, Steamboat, Sullivan, Sammartino.

March 1982/Stories include: Slaughter, Albano, Flair, Race.

April 1982/Stories include: Brisco, Armstrongs, Valentine, Santana.

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Von Erich, Graham, Rich.

June 1982/Stories include: Steamboat, Reed, Albano, Piper.

July 1982/Stories include: Rich, Sawyer, Flair, Steamboat.

August 1982/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Mulligans, Piper.

September 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, Armstrong, Blair.

October 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rhodes, Santana, Piper.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Piper, Blair.

December 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rich, Kamala, Junkyard Dog.

January 1983/Stories include: Putski, Muraco, Windham, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Backlund, Rich, Kamala.

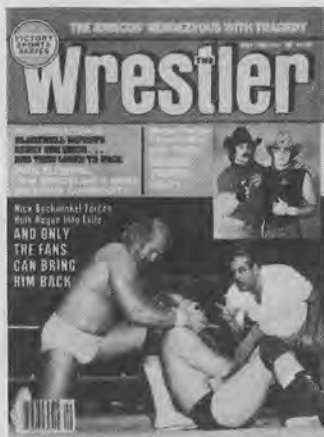
April 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Tiger Mask, Sammartino, Bundy.

May 1983/Stories include: Samoans, Von Erich, Rhodes, Orndorff.

June 1983/Stories include: Windham, Martel, Brody, Andre.

July 1983/Stories include: Flair, Adonis, Sullivan, Zbyszko.

August 1983/Stories include: Valentine, Blanchard, Windham, Street.



SEPTEMBER 1983

September 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Briscoes.

October 1983/Stories include: Pace, Sawyer, Briscoes, Bass.

November 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Santana, Von Erichs, Kabuki.

December 1983/Stories include: Mascaras, Superstar, Von Erich, Zbyszko.

January 1984/Stories include: Valentine, Hogan, Von Erich, Road Warriors.

March 1984/Stories include: Santana, Hogan, Von Erich, Sawyers.

April 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Rhodes.

May 1984/Stories include: Windham, Brody, Road Warriors, Junkyard Dog.

June 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Billy Jack, Flair, Armstrong.

July 1984/Stories include: Rich, Billy Jack, Valiant, Von Erich.

August 1984/Stories include: Garvin, Sullivan, Freebirds, Street.

September 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Piper, Steamboat, Billy Jack.

October 1984/Stories include: Flair, Rhodes, Magnum T.A., Bundy.

November 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Von Erich, Piper, Brody.

December 1984/Stories include: Martel, Santana, Von Erich, Steamboat.

January 1985/Stories include: Von Erich, Warriors, Albano, Koloffs.

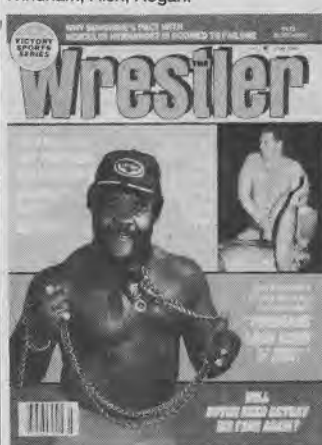
February 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Santana, Billy Jack, Nikita Koloff.

March 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Warriors, Martel, Rude.

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Von Erich-Adams, Flair, Tonga & Snuka.

May 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Backlund, Santana, Rich.

June 1985/Stories include: Rhodes, Windham, Rich, Hogan.



JULY 1985

July 1985/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Reed, Martel, Sunshine.

August 1985/BONUS 4-PG. COLOR SECTION! Plus: Warriors, Magnum T.A., Sheik & Volkoff, McGraw.

September 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Savage, R&R Express.

October 1985/Stories include: Flair, Windham, Shultz, Martel.

November 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Zbyszko, R&R Express, Von Erichs.

December 1985/Stories include: Rude, Fantastics, Muraco, Uncle Elmer.

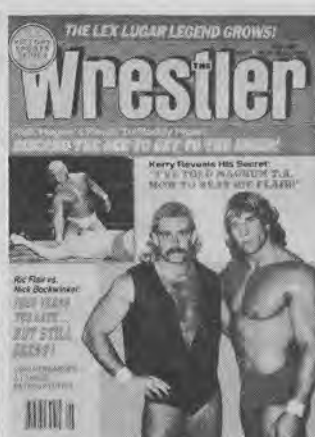
January 1986/20th Anniversary Issue! 10 Greatest Wrestlers, Rhodes, Hogan, Sammartino.

February 1986/Stories include: Hogan, Orndorff, Flair, Hansen.

March 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Duggan, Hansen-Martel.

April 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Rude, Lugar, Hogan, Magnum T.A.

May 1986/Stories include: Zbyszko, Von Erichs, Santana-Ventura, Hillbillies.



JUNE 1986

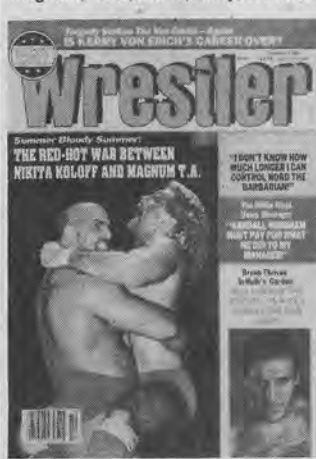
June 1986/Stories include: Lugar, Hernandez, Flair-Bockwinkel, Hogan, T.A.

July 1986/Stories include: King Kong Bundy, Koloff vs. Graham, Ric Flair.

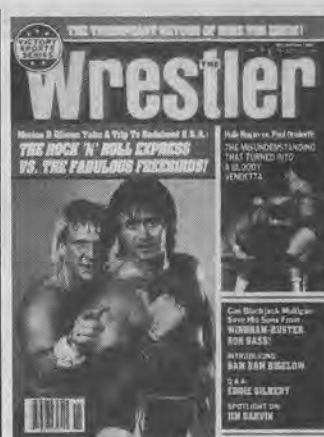
August 1986/Stories include: Snuka, Bulldogs, Freebirds, Warriors, Duggan.

September 1986/Stories include: Fantastics, Adonis, Morton-Flair, Brody.

October 1986/Stories include: Nikita-Magnum, Nord, Bruno, Kerry, Windham.



OCTOBER 1986



NOVEMBER 1986

November 1986/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan-Orndorff, Von Erich.

December 1986/Stories include: Flair, Bockwinkel, Hogan, Gilbert, Nikita.

January 1987/Stories include: Heenan, Garvins, DiBiase, Borne & Sawyer.

February 1987/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Gordy, Steamboat-Roberts.

March 1987/Stories include: Windham, Nikita, Adias, Savage-Steamboat.

May 1987/Stories include: Flair-Nikita, Andre-Hogan, UWF, Windham, Hennig.

June 1987/Stories include: Flair-Windham, Can-Ams, Rhodes-Murdoch.

July 1987/Stories include: Cornette, Hyatt, Luger, Harts, Adams, Hansen.

August 1987/Stories include: Can-Ams, Luger vs. Nikita, Fantastics, Koko, Nord.

September 1987/Stories include: Koloffs, Harts, Duggan, Hennig, Hart.

October 1987/Stories include: Savage-Honky Tonk, Horsemen, Patera, Kerry.

November 1987/Stories include: Williams, Luger, Hogan-Khan, Rich.

December 1987/Stories include: Hogan, Windham, Lawler, Flair, Beefcake.

January 1988/Stories include: Nikita-Taylor, Warriors, DiBiase-Duggan.

February 1988/Stories include: Flair, Andre-Hogan, New Breed, Kerry.

March 1988/Stories include: Hogan, Luger-Sting, Calgary, Demolition.

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INTRODUCING SCOTT REXSTEINER

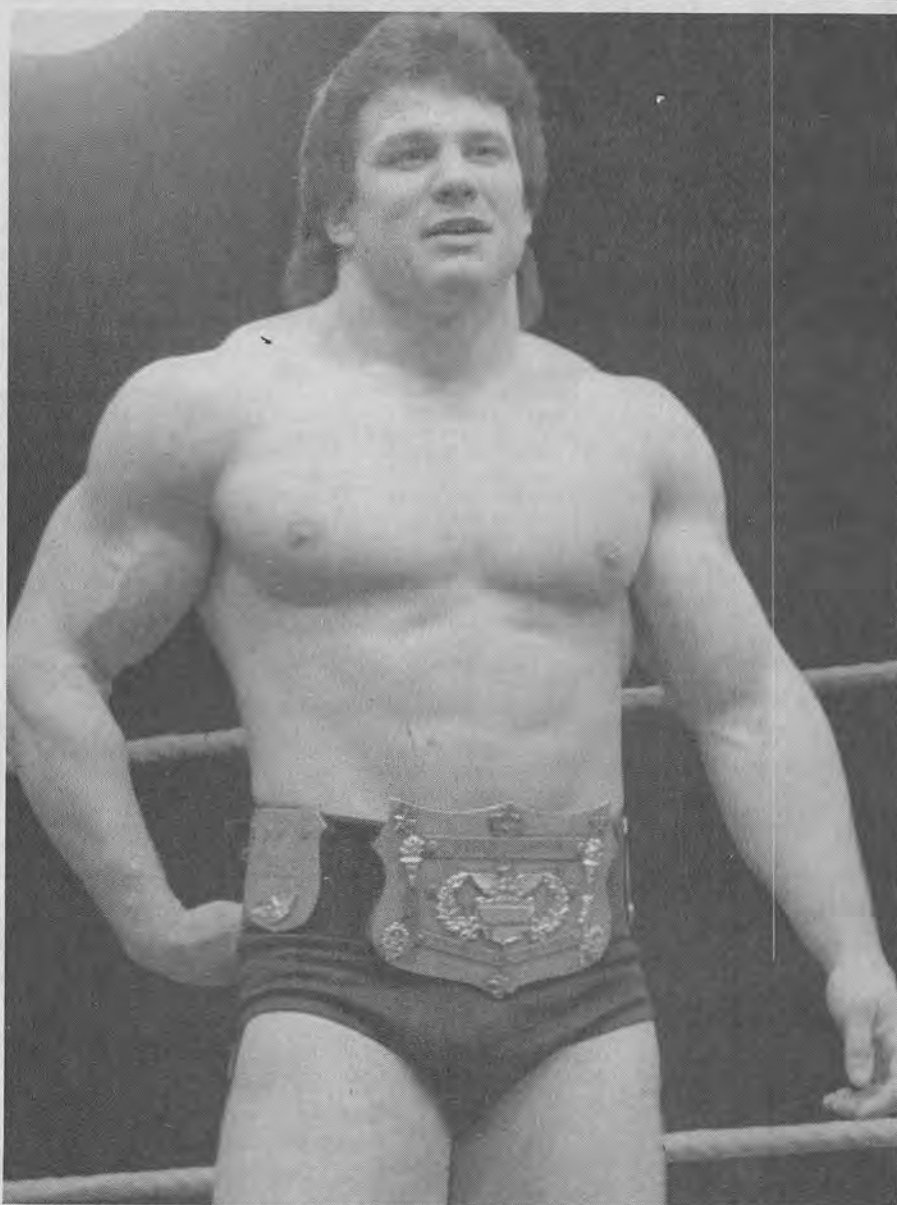
MOST YOUNG MEN enter professional wrestling dreaming that if they work hard enough and get a few breaks, one day they'll win a heavyweight championship.

For Scott Rexsteiner, the realization of that dream came remarkably soon after he entered the pro ranks. It was the summer of 1986 and Rexsteiner had barely a half-dozen preliminary bouts under his belt when he won the World Wrestling Association heavyweight championship from The Great Wojo.

Wojo had expected an easy time with this young, unknown preliminary wrestler in their match that was aired on the World Wrestling Association's *Bruiser Bedlam* TV show. But Rexsteiner, not taking his first major opportunity lightly, caught the longtime champ in a backslide for the three-count.

Some people—particularly Wojo's manager, Dr. Jerry Graham—called it a fluke. Apparently, no one had warned Wojo that this "preliminary" wrestler had an outstanding amateur background (he was an all-American at the University of Michigan). Nobody told Wojo that Rexsteiner's rippling muscles were not just for show. Or that his brother, Rick Steiner,

(Continued on page 20)

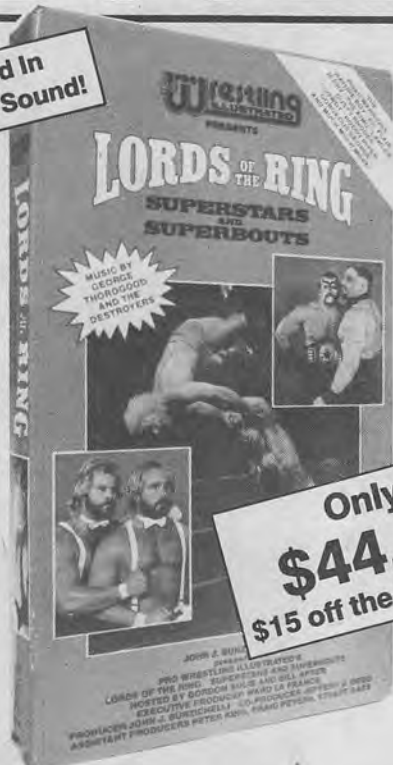


Shortly after entering the World Wrestling Association in 1986, Scott Rexsteiner won that federation's heavyweight title by upsetting The Great Wojo. Rexsteiner is the younger brother of NWA star Rick Steiner.

Currently wrestling in the WWA, young Scott Rexsteiner is improving and honing his skills through his strong determination and a heavy match schedule. Though their styles are at opposite ends of the wrestling spectrum, Scott is already being favorably compared to his older brother, Rick Steiner

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INTRODUCING

(Continued from page 18)

was already an established star in the UWF.

Fluke or not, Rexsteiner had won the tattered but proud belt on which names such as Wilbur Snyder, Pepper Gomez, and Dick the Bruiser are inscribed. The WWA may be small by WWF and NWA standards, but the WWA is rich in history and still prominent in the Ohio-Michigan-Indiana tri-state region.

"I felt like I had just won a World championship," said Rexsteiner. "I have to admit, I think I caught Wojo by surprise because he came into the ring expecting to beat me easily. He was shocked when he saw I could wrestle. Of course, after I won the belt, people didn't take me for granted anymore, and that made it a lot tougher."

Rexsteiner proved he was worthy of the title by turning back challenges from some of the best wrestlers in the WWA. He survived a brutal series of bouts against Chris Carter and had a number of rematches against Wojo, but held the strap until Wojo—a powerhouse with a strong amateur background himself—finally regained the belt last May 3 in Toledo, Ohio.

Rexsteiner has less than two years of professional experience, but he is nonetheless a mat veteran. From his high school days in Bay City, Michigan, Scott followed on the heels of his older brother Rob (who has since altered the family's surname to the name Rick Steiner) and attended the University of Michigan.

In college, Scott made a name for himself without ever changing his name. He was featured on the cover of the University of Michigan wrestling team media guide in his senior year. In that year, he led the team in pinfalls and placed in the NCAA champion-

ships to attain the coveted all-America ranking. Today, his name is inscribed in the U of M record books; his 125 collegiate victories rank him sixth on the school's all-time win list.

After college, Scott and his brother went their separate ways. Today, Scott is far apart from Rick Steiner in style and fan response. Scott is loved in the Midwest for his scientific style and sportsmanship; Rick is a solid brawler who has drawn the wrath of the fans.

The 6'1", 235-pound Rexsteiner rarely discusses his brother ("He does things his way, I do things mine" is about the extent of his acknowledgement of him), but he has attended matches in Detroit when Steiner has been on the card.

Rexsteiner's short career in the WWA has not been without its rough spots. After beating Wojo for the title, Scott eventually earned the respect of Wojo and Graham and formed an alliance with them. But he gave Wojo another shot at the title in a loser-leaves-WWA bout in early summer 1987. This time, Wojo won in a magnificent scientific battle, apparently cutting short Rexsteiner's blossoming WWA career.

But Graham and Wojo soon brought Scott back to the territory under a mask and an alias: Senor X. An unmasking, engineered by Chris Carter, revealed what was obvious to Scott's legion of fans, and pressure from those fans played a large part in convincing WWA management to let Rexsteiner return to the federation.

"When I lost to Wojo, I always knew I'd come back," said Rexsteiner. "It was a tough match to lose because I wanted it so badly, but it was also a learning experience for me. Let me tell you something, though, it was great



Rexsteiner dropkicks Wojo, who regained the WWA title last May. A solid amateur background has given Rexsteiner the foundation for a successful pro career.

the way the fans supported me when I came back. I'm glad I didn't have to wear that mask too much longer."

Rexsteiner has since teamed with Graham. They combined to win the WWA tag team belts from Carter and Muhammad Jhad Saad last October 4; they lost them to Carter and Don Kent last December 6. Despite the loss, however, Rexsteiner is back in the thick of action as he continues to power his way through all competition the WWA throws against him.

Indeed, Rexsteiner has proven he can bounce back and regroup quickly after a loss. That's a sign of maturity that bodes extremely well for his future success. □

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Q&A

Each month, *The Wrestler* will present a "Question and Answer" forum with an important figure in the wrestling world. It is your chance to meet wrestling's biggest stars

Q: Let's get right to the point, Bobby. You and Stan are the U.S. tag team champions. And now, all of a sudden, out of the blue, Cornette announces that he's going to split you up to go after Dusty Rhodes' U.S. title. Why's he doing it?

A: I think Jimmy's made that clear. His mother wants a major singles title and she thinks we can win it from Rhodes.

Q: I wasn't asking you to tell me Cornette's reason. I want to know what *you* think the reason is.

A: Like I said, it's clear. Mrs. Cornette is a very determined, very rich woman. She knows what she wants. She's been involved in wrestling with her son for a long time, and it's been almost entirely with tag teams. You know, when Bubba won the UWF belt after leaving Jimmy, Mama wasn't too pleased about it. She wanted to know why he couldn't win a championship when he was with *us*, why he was used as a bodyguard instead of a wrestler. Well, that's simple: He'd rather be a bodyguard. But it whetted her appetite and got her thinking. At least that's the way I see it. Then, I guess she probably told Jimmy to go out and get a top singles wrestler, but Jimmy told her that she's already got two of the best wrestlers in the world, me and Sweet Stan.

Q: But won't splitting you up keep you from properly defending the U.S. tag team belts? Remember, there's a 30-day rule in the NWA.

A: Not to worry, not to worry. I think everybody's getting a little too excited about this. First of all, The Midnight Express has *not* broken up. Me and Stan are still a team. We plan to defend our belts just like we've always done. We'll take on any worthy challengers; the line forms to the right, guys. I definitely think we'll still defend the belts at least two or three times a week. That leaves us plenty of time to go after the U.S. title, and let



Bobby Eaton readies a punch for Dusty Rhodes. At Mama Cornette's request, Eaton is going after Rhodes' U.S. title while defending the U.S. tag team belts with Stan Lane.



BOBBY EATON

THE PAST YEAR has been an adventure for Bobby Eaton. First, Dennis Condrey, his partner in The Midnight Express, was fired by manager Jim Cornette and went to the AWA. Then Cornette hired Stan Lane, and suddenly Eaton found himself trying to adjust to a new partner.

But Eaton and Lane fit together perfectly. On May 16, they won a tournament for the U.S. tag team belts by defeating Barry Windham and Ronnie Garvin, a title they still hold.

They were voted 1987 Tag Team of the Year.

There were low points, too. Eaton and Lane had hoped to meet The Rock 'n' Roll Express for the NWA World tag belts, but their hopes were vanquished when Rick Morton and Robert Gibson lost the title to Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson. Then, at Starrcade '87, the Midnights lost a scaffold match to Gibson and Morton.

Now, there's a new development on the Midnight horizon. Mama Cornette, the *real* leader of the Midnights, ordered her son to occasionally split Eaton and Lane so they could go after Dusty Rhodes' U.S. title. As 1987 ended, Eaton reflected on a year of turmoil with *The Wrestler* Associate Editor Dave Rosenbaum.



Jim Cornette has a lengthy list of complaints after a particularly difficult title defense by The Midnight Express. Eaton says he has complete confidence in Cornette's managerial ability.

me tell you something: You heard that Dusty Rhodes is thinking of retiring?

Q: Of course. It's one of the biggest topics in wrestling.

A: Well, it's not a bad idea, because I guarantee you that one of us, me or Stan, is gonna send him into retirement if he doesn't do it himself. I think one of Lex Luger's shortcomings was that he didn't have the scientific skills to offset Rhodes, although Luger is much stronger and in much better shape.

Of course, a pregnant whale is in better shape than that big hunk of blubber. Anyway, I've got the scientific wrestling ability Luger doesn't have, and probably never will, because he's too bent on looking at himself in the mirror. I'm looking forward to wrestling Rhodes. It'll give me a vacation from tag team wrestling. I anticipate no trouble at all.

Q: May I point out that many other wrestlers have said the same things about Dusty, only to find out that

Rhodes is one of the most determined wrestlers in the sport. You can say what you want about his physique, but the fact remains that he defeated one of the most talented young stars in professional wrestling. You wouldn't be the first to underestimate Rhodes and end up paying the price.

A: Clam up, Rosenbaum. I know all about Rhodes. I've had my share of run-ins with him, but he doesn't worry me in the least. There's something you don't understand: Jim Cornette possesses one of the finest minds in professional wrestling. You see, the public only knows the Jim Cornette who comes out on interviews talking a blue streak and hitting people with his tennis racket. The Jim Cornette you don't see is the hard-working businessman, the financial manager, the wrestling expert. Jim Cornette spends more time looking at films and working on strategy than any man in the game. He's devised a surefire plan to make sure that the U.S. heavyweight title ends up in the hands of me or Stan. One or the other. It doesn't matter.

Q: J.J. Dillon had a surefire game plan for Lex Luger and you saw where that got him.

A: Don't compare J.J. Dillon to Jim Cornette. Dillon's a great manager, but he's no Cornette. Jimmy is one of a kind.

Q: He certainly is.

A: Don't get wise. You know, people



Eaton attacks Rick Morton while Stan Lane and Robert Gibson go at it in the background. That assault cost The Rock 'n' Roll Express the NWA World title, but it also cost the Midnight Express a shot at those belts. Nevertheless, Eaton says he has no regrets, because he thinks the Rock 'n' Rolls deserved what they got.

gloss over the success of The Midnight Express like it all has to do with luck. Me and Stan are the U.S. tag team champions. We're the Tag Team of the Year—as voted upon by the readers of *your* magazine [*Pro Wrestling Illustrated*], by the way—and we're going to win the Crockett Cup in '88. When it was me and Dennis, we

were World champions. The fact is that over the past three or four years, The Midnight Express has been the most successful tag team in wrestling.

Q: You mentioned Dennis Condrey. Do you speak with him at all?

A: No. That's over and through. I thought it was a low move for Condrey to call him and Randy

Rose the "Original" Midnight Express, like he could make people respect him and Rose just by taking our name. After Dennis and Rose won the AWA tag belts, I thought about calling him up to congratulate him, but I thought better of it. Besides, what do the AWA tag belts mean to anybody?

Q: So your affiliation with Dennis Condrey is a thing of the past?

A: Absolutely.

Q: Are you surprised that you and Stan work together so well?

A: At first I was a little apprehensive. You know, me and Stan got together just shortly before the Crockett Cup, so we were tested right away. I think going to the semifinals is a pretty mean feat for a team that had only been together for a few weeks. That to me was a sign that we were going places. The thing that was instantly obvious to me was that Stan is an outstanding athlete. He keeps himself in great shape—sometimes I envy him a little—and he's dedicated to his craft. It was a strange situation because I was used to Dennis and he was used to Steve Keirn, but we adjusted perfectly. Of course, that's just natural when you're talking about two great athletes.

Q: The night Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson won the World championship from The Rock 'n' Roll Express, you, Stan, and Cornette played a major role in the Express' defeat by injuring Morton before the match. The way most people saw it, you were next in line for a title shot, and by doing this you lost your chance. Have you ever thought about that?

A: Hey, those are the breaks of the game. We did what we had to do to Morton. He asked for what he got. In fact, I took great pleasure in having something to do with those two geeks losing the belts. And besides, Stan and I know that we'll have our shot at the World championship. It's all just a matter of time.

(Continued on page 64)



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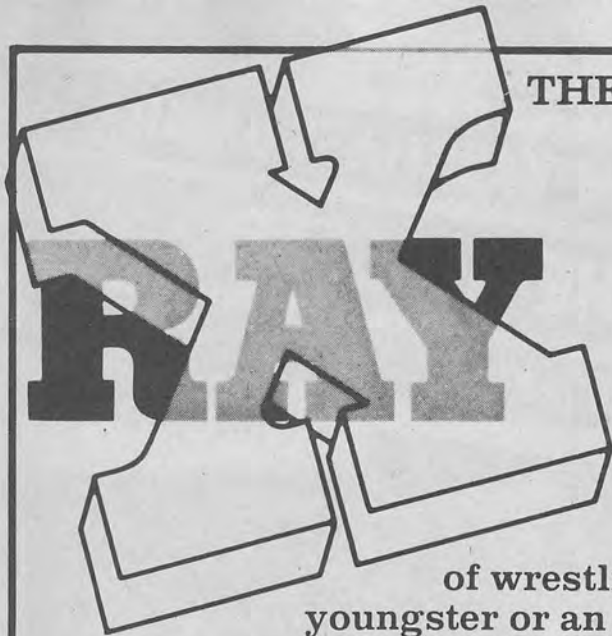
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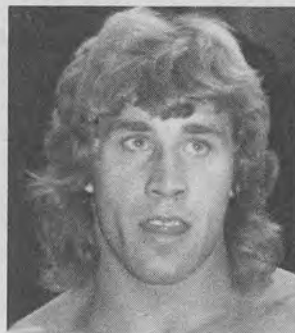
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KERRY VON ERICH

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youngster or an established superstar in his own right,
our panel will always be frank and honest without fear of reprisal



Kerry Von Erich takes control of World Class champion Al Perez during their title match in Dallas on Christmas Day. After almost two years, Kerry is back to full-time competition. He's already won the World Class tag team title with his brother Kevin and has fought for the heavyweight belt several times.



CAPT. LOU ALBANO

"You can say what you want about Kerry Von Erich, daddy, but in my book the man has a lot of guts. He could've stayed on the sidelines, he could've collected his pension to a ripe old age or let his daddy support him, but he wanted to get back into that ring and he did. And let me tell you something, from what I can tell, he's as good as new. He has the aerial moves, he floats, he dives, and he has that discus punch. The man is still a great wrestler."

Capt. Lou Albano, long known as "The Guiding Light," has guided 13 tag teams to an unmatched 16 WWF World tag team titles.



KILLER KOWALSKI

"You know, I used to think Kerry Von Erich was a real bum, a daddy's boy who wouldn't have gotten anywhere if not for the Von Erich name. But he showed guts by coming back after all that's happened to him, and in this game guts is one of the most important things. I still think he should forget about the fans—a guy that big doesn't need the fans—but so far he's done things the way he wants. He don't listen to nobody, and that's okay in my book."

Killer Kowalski, one of the most sadistic rulebreakers in the sport's history, runs a wrestling school in Reading, Massachusetts.



PROF. TORU TANAKA

"Kerry Von Erich is very foolish to come back after having terrible injury. He was not very good wrestler in first place. Now he is even worse. This 'Modern-Day Warrior' is past his prime. When he have accident, that was signal from above that he must stop wrestling and do something he is good at. All he can do is give discus punch. Professional wrestling take much more than good discus punch. It take brains. Von Erich have no brains."

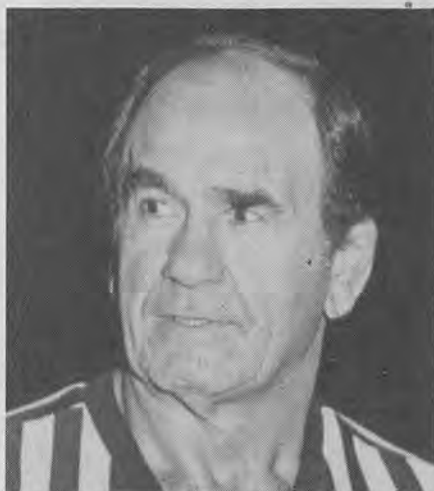
Prof. Tanaka, a three-time co-holder of the WWF World tag team title with Mr. Fuji, is currently a successful actor.



LARRY HENNIG

"You know, you 'X-Ray' idiots are asking for a beating. I've got my hands full taking care of that wimp Greg Gagne and you're asking me about another so-called all-American boy, this Kerry Von Erich slime. I don't have time for this, and if you really wanna know what I think, those Von Erichs are all the same. They're all cut from the same mold: They rely on buying the refs and deceiving their fans. Kerry ain't no different."

Larry "The Ax" Hennig is a four-time former AWA World tag team champion; he held three of those titles with Harley Race.



LOU THESZ

"The man was out of wrestling for nearly 18 months, so he had plenty of time to do his homework. Obviously, he did it. I saw the way he wrestled Brian Adias; he had his game plan down perfectly. Von Erich knew exactly what he wanted to do. You know, it doesn't surprise me that Kerry and Kevin won the World Class tag belts. They're both outstanding wrestlers. Kerry looks good as new. I think his future is very bright."

Lou Thesz held the NWA World title six times during his fabulous 50-year career. Many consider him the greatest all-round wrestler in history.



JACK BRISCO

"There are a lot of people out there who hate the Von Erichs, but I think you've got to give Kerry a lot of credit for what he did. I mean, the man had a life-threatening injury, and some people said he might never walk again. Less than two years later, he's back in the ring, winning the tag title with his brother. That's quite a feat. You know, Kerry has always been an outstanding scientific wrestler and he has great strength. My hat's off to him!"

Jack Brisco is a two-time former NWA World champion, and a three-time former NWA World tag team champion with brother Jerry.

***A Month Of Doubt Or
A Permanent Change?***

THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS TURN RULEBREAKER!



WHAT SOME PERCEIVE as greatness, others perceive as arrogance. In the AWA, The Midnight Rockers are heroes; former World tag team champions on the verge of rescuing the AWA from the evil doings of Paul E. Dangerously and the original Midnight Express. In the Continental Wrestling Association (formerly known as the Mid-Southern area), Marty Jannetty and

Shawn Michaels are fast-talking big mouths who've tainted the CWA tag team title with their arrogance.

Beloved fan favorites or hated rulebreakers? Are they loyal to the fans or have they been bought off by a devious foreigner named Mark Goleen? Amazingly, both reputations are well-deserved. Jannetty and Michaels are living a Jekyll-and-Hyde existence—with both

men playing both parts.

"They're the most obnoxious, arrogant guys I've ever seen," said Tracey Donovan of Memphis at a recent CWA card in which the Rockers took on former rulebreakers The Nasty Boys.

"The Rockers are the greatest tag team the AWA has ever seen," said Chris Compton of Minneapolis. "They're gonna put the Express away and get those World belts back because they never should've lost them in the first place."

Same team, different reactions. Arrogance on the one hand, greatness on the other.

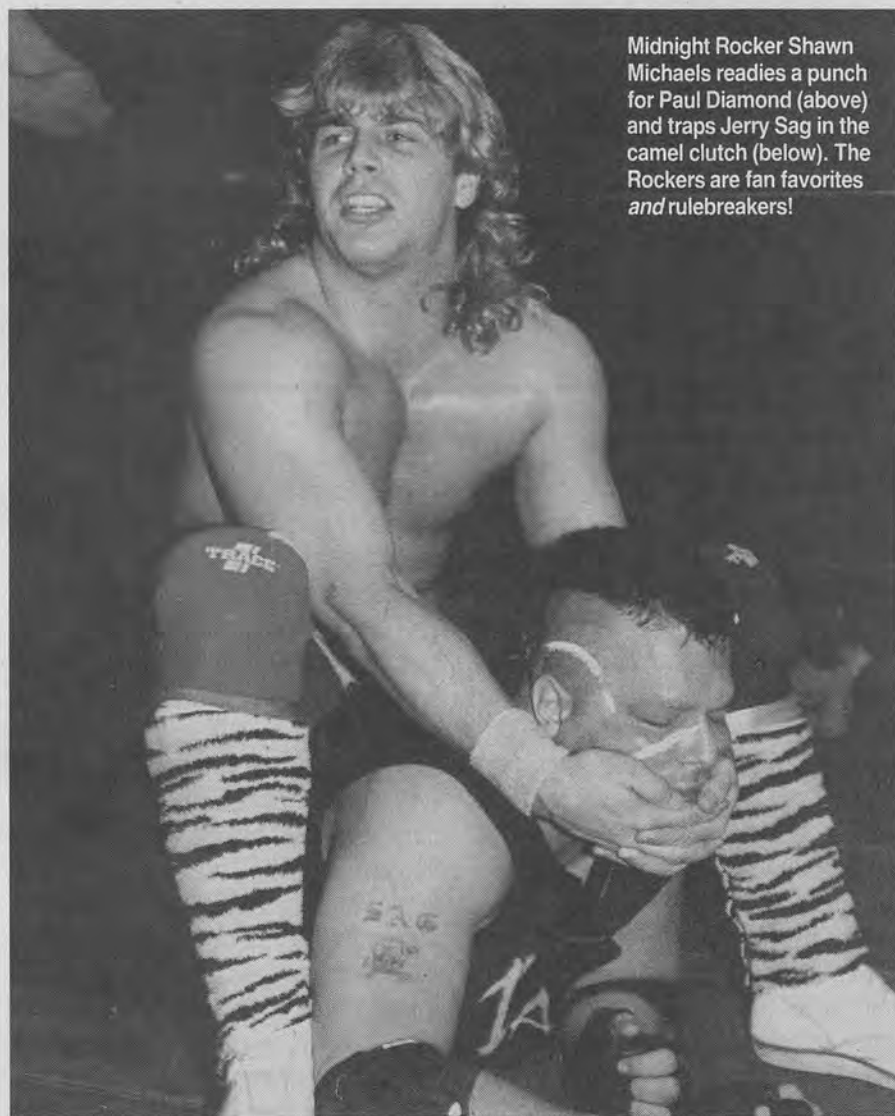
But what if the Rockers are deceiving the AWA fans so they can get title shots against The "Original" Midnight Express? Jannetty and Michaels are still angry at the AWA for not officially stepping in last year when Boris Zukhov and Soldat Ustinov won the belts from them. Zukhov and Ustinov refused to grant the Rockers a rematch. AWA officials did nothing about it and the Rockers left town.

The Rockers realize that if they become rulebreakers in the AWA, they'll never get a shot at the Midnights. So their real personality came out in Memphis and they're hiding it in the AWA until they win the belts from Randy Rose and Dennis Condrey. Then they'll show their true colors and bring out manager Mark Goleen, much to the dismay of their loyal fans.

Just a theory.



Midnight Rocker Shawn Michaels readies a punch for Paul Diamond (above) and traps Jerry Sag in the camel clutch (below). The Rockers are fan favorites and rulebreakers!



Of course that projection could be totally off target. There's no doubt that the *good* Rockers showed up on Christmas Day at the Minneapolis Auditorium, when Jannetty and Michaels battled Condrey and Rose to a thrilling 30-minute time-limit draw. Under Dangerously's guidance, the Express unleashed an all-out assault, only to be held off by the Rockers' brilliant scientific and aerial skills. Jannetty and Michaels had several opportunities to win the belts but couldn't put the Express away.

The Rockers appear to have the best shot at knocking off Condrey and Rose, but, shockingly, Jannetty and Michaels are not scheduled for any further title matches. Both the AWA and the Rockers have refused to comment on this matter, prompting speculation on both sides: Is the AWA trying to hurt the Rockers once again? Or would Jannetty and Michaels rather spend their time breaking the rules in Memphis?

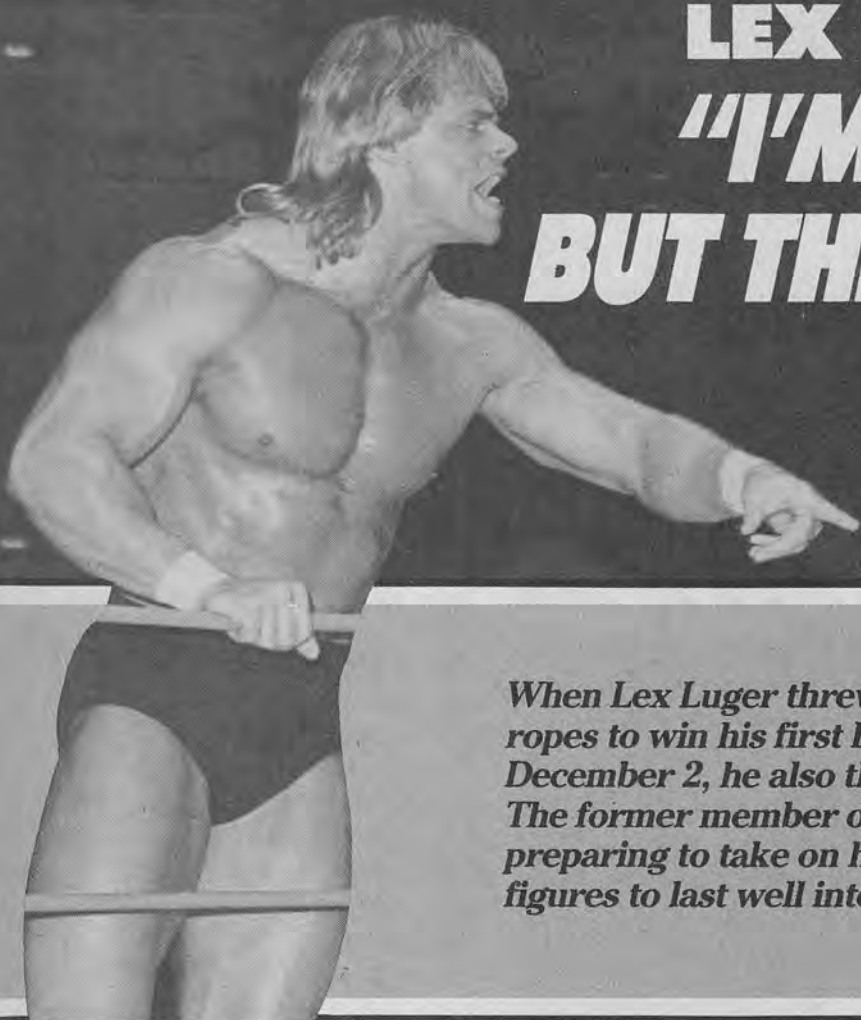
The Goleen incident indicates that the latter is the case. Here's what happened:

On an interview with Memphis TV commentator Lance Russell last December, Goleen said that he had his eye on a tag team in the CWA. "They're the best I've ever seen," said Goleen, who brought out The Midnight Rockers, who, at the time, were fan favorites.

He offered them \$5,000 to join the House of Goleen, but Jannetty and Michaels refused. Goleen upped the ante to \$15,000, then to \$20,000, but the Rockers stood firm. Then Jerry Lawler came out and advised the Rockers not to join Goleen. Jannetty and Michaels resented Lawler's advice, but still refused to make a decision until the following week—when they finally

(Continued on page 60)

What's happened to The Midnight Rockers? Marty Jannetty and Shawn Michaels are fan favorites in the AWA, rulebreakers in the CWA under the direction of manager Mark Goleen—and they're playing both parts a little too convincingly!



LEX LUGER: "I'M FREE OF THE BUT THE HORSEMEN"

When Lex Luger threw manager J.J. Dillon over the ropes to win his first Bunkhouse Stampede on December 2, he also threw his career into disarray. The former member of The Four Horsemen is now preparing to take on his ex-teammates in a war that figures to last well into 1988—and beyond!

FOR PERHAPS THE first time in his career Lex Luger is alone. All alone. His days with the notorious Four Horsemen came to a crashing halt on December 2 in Miami Beach, Florida, when he refused to eliminate himself in the first Bunkhouse Stampede of the winter and allow his manager J.J. Dillon to win the match.

"I know there are a lot of people out there wondering whether I can make it," said Luger. "Down in Florida, I always had Hiro [Matsuda] or Bob Roop, and then Barry Windham. When I came up here, I was immediately part of the Horsemen. But now it's just me, Lex against the world. I know I haven't made too many friends over the past year, but let me tell you something: I don't need friends."

Luger's words reveal his youthful arrogance. In only two years as a professional wrestler, he's been

named 1986 Rookie of the Year, has captured the Southern title three times, and won the U.S. championship. So Luger, a 268-pound native of Chicago (where, ironically, he lost the U.S. belt to Dusty Rhodes at Starrcade '87) has every reason to believe in his abilities. But after two years in the game he should realize that few athletes make it on their own.

Now Luger is getting ready to fight his most dangerous battle—without any help.

"I'm free of the Horsemen," said Luger, sounding every bit like a man who has finally won release after a long imprisonment. "I no longer have to worry about J.J. Dillon telling me what to do, or about playing second fiddle to Ric Flair, even when he *didn't* have the World title. Now I only have to worry about myself, my own abilities, and my own career. But I still have a job to do. A big job. The

Horsemen aren't free of me!"

As Luger talks about his 11 months with Dillon, Flair, Arn Anderson, and Tully Blanchard, it's obvious there's a lot he resents.

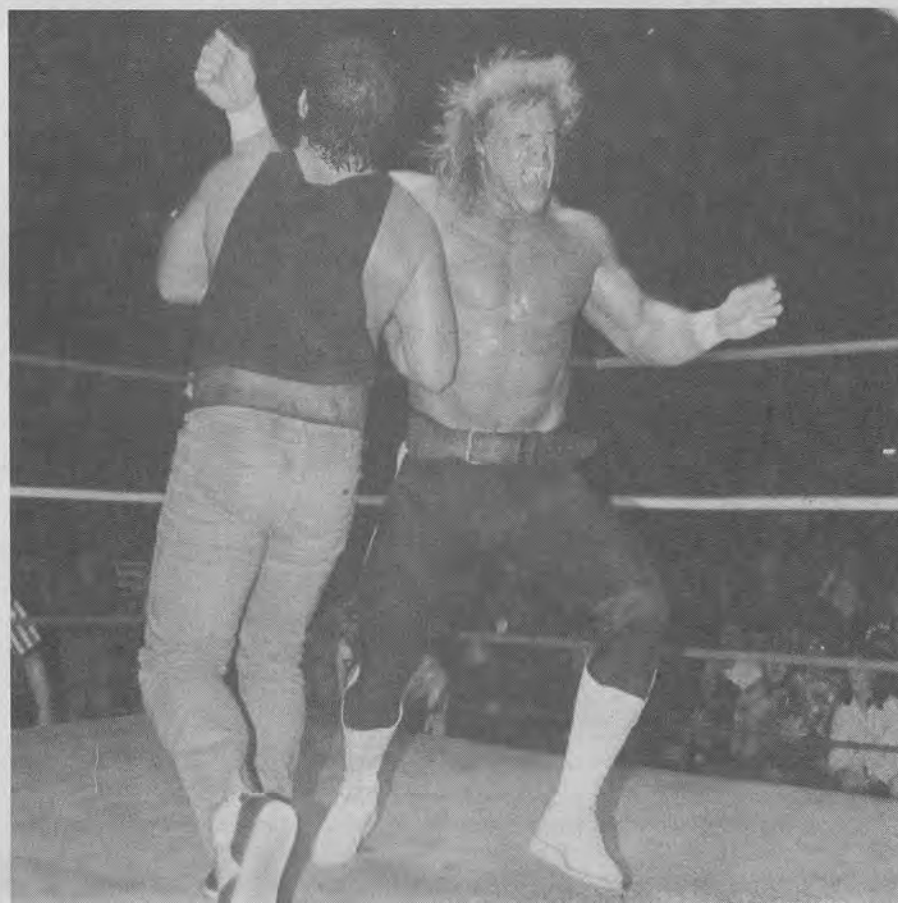
"My biggest mistake was putting my career in Dillon's hands, because he's nothing but a user," Luger said. "My second biggest mistake was thinking Flair was out for my own good. And my third biggest mistake was thinking that a team like the Horsemen has a place in wrestling. I've learned that wrestling is *not* a team sport."

Luger was referring to the problems inherent in being part of a clique such as the Horsemen. As Southern champion in Florida, Luger took Flair to the limit on several occasions. When Luger announced he was coming to the World Championship area, it was assumed he would go after Flair. Then he joined the Horsemen and became part of Flair's team. Ordi-

HORSEMEN... AREN'T FREE OF ME!"



Lex Luger (opposite page) seems to be telling Ric Flair, Tully Blanchard, J.J. Dillon, and Arn Anderson (above) to keep out of his business. If they don't, they're likely to fall victim to the awesome power of "The Total Package"—as Blanchard already has (below).



narly, the U.S. champion would get many shots at the World title; Luger got none.

"That's the thing that bugs me the most," said Luger. "The Horsemen were always talking about how they band together and help each other, but soon I realized everybody was only out for themselves. Dillon wanted the glory he couldn't attain as a wrestler and Flair wanted his belt. I'll tell you this: Flair would stab his best friend in the back for that belt. He could've given me a match. I don't see any reason why two friends can't wrestle each other. This *is* a sport, isn't it? Football teams don't have to hate each other to play a game. Why would it have been so bad if Flair wrestled me a few times? I *deserved* a shot."

Flair insists he would've given Luger a title shot; all he had to do was ask. Luger thinks a title shot should have been offered. Dillon says Luger should have been a team player instead of an individual, and that he had no right to want a shot at Flair. Anderson and Blanchard, currently the NWA World tag team champions, think Luger is finally showing the selfishness they suspected of him all along.

"What he did in Miami Beach didn't surprise me in the least," said Anderson. "I just said to him,

(Continued on page 50)

EXCLUSIVE COVERAGE OF WRESTLING'S GREATEST DAY!

STARRCADE!

SURVIVOR SERIES!

AWA! WORLD CLASS!

The NWA and WWF went head to head on pay-per-view TV! Flair won his fifth NWA World title! Hogan attacked Andre the Giant! Kerry returned to his home town! And more! In this special section, *The Wrestler* takes a look at a most remarkable day for professional wrestling!

THANKSGIVING DAY 1987. Years from now, wrestling historians will look back to Thursday, November 26 as one of the most significant days in the history of the sport. Throughout the country at several different arenas, fans thrilled to some of the most exciting wrestling action ever seen. From Ohio to Chicago, from Minneapolis to Dallas, history was being made.

From the perspective of the sport as a whole, it was certainly the most significant day of the year. And there are several reasons why Thanksgiving Day 1987 will long be remembered as the greatest ever:

- The NWA and the WWF went head to head on pay-per-view TV for the first time ever. Victories were scored on both sides. The WWF scored major points by scheduling its inaugural Survivor Series for PPV directly opposite Starrcade '87, the NWA's first PPV event, and maintained control of the PPV market. The



The Coliseum in Richfield, Ohio, was sold out for the WWF's Survivor Series, an event that saw Andre the Giant and Hulk Hogan square off for the first time since WrestleMania III.

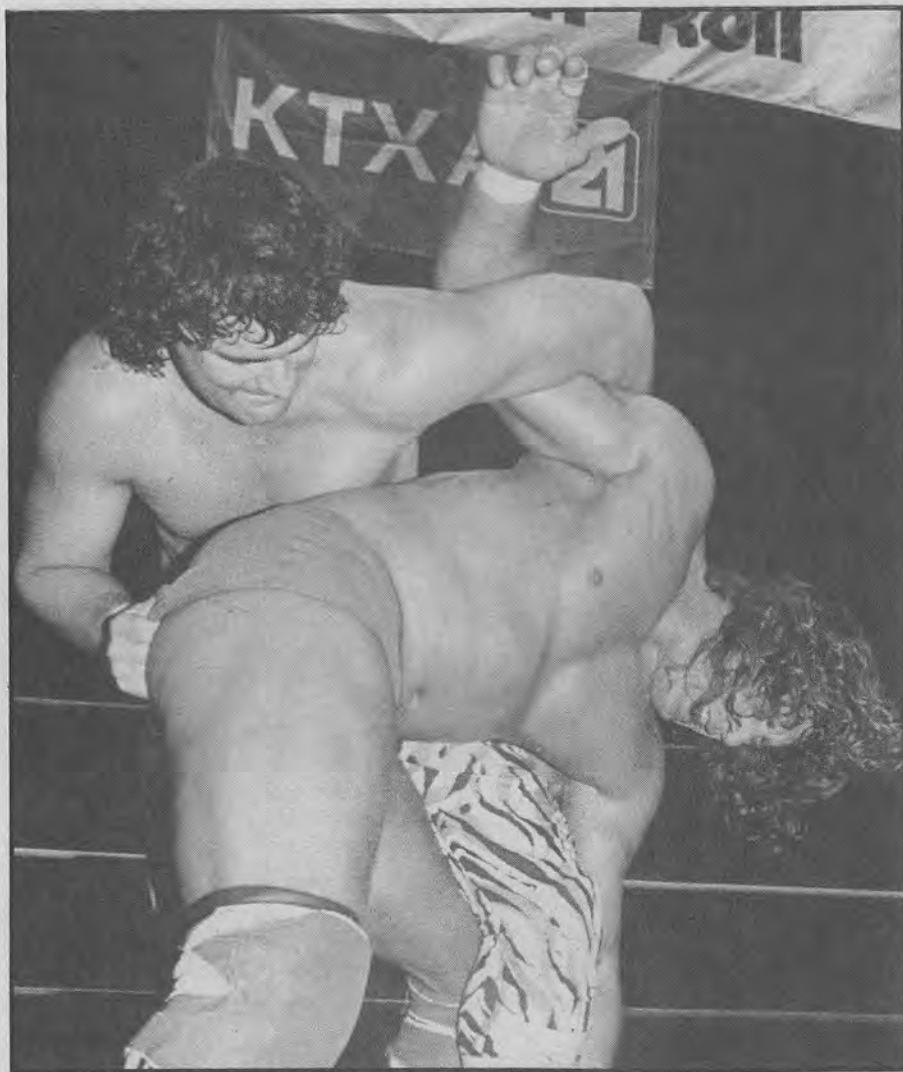
Survivor Series was a major PPV success, and Starrcade was seen in only scattered areas. But the NWA broke into the PPV market for the first time, and that itself was significant. The war has just begun!

● The Survivor Series. The concept, the execution, and the action itself might have opened up a new era in professional wrestling. The Survivor Series card consisted entirely of team matches with five or more wrestlers on each side. There wasn't a one-on-one or traditional tag team match to be found. The sellout crowd at the Richfield Coliseum in Richfield, Ohio, and the huge PPV audience, proved that the fans will come to see such a card, although there were prior doubts. The innovative WWF had done it again!

● Ric Flair defeated Ronnie Garvin to win his fifth NWA World title at Starrcade '87 in Chicago. Flair pinned



Ronnie Garvin pushes Ric Flair's head into the cage during their NWA World title bout at Starrcade '87 in Chicago. Garvin was not the only one to lose a championship; Lex Luger dropped the U.S. belt to Dusty Rhodes.



Brian Adias applies an abdominal stretch on Kerry Von Erich, who was making his return to wrestling in Dallas at the World Class Thanksgiving show.

Garvin at the 16:39 mark of their steel cage match, a brutal battle in which "The Nature Boy" held off a determined Garvin assault for most of the contest. Flair finally caught Garvin when "Hands Of Stone" attempted a cross-body block; Flair backed him face-first into the cage and rolled him up for the pin. Garvin's two-month title reign was over.

● The Andre the Giant-Hulk Hogan feud was sent back into full swing as Andre won the main event of the Survivor Series by eliminating Bam Bam Bigelow. Nobody will ever forget Bigelow's brave performance while at a three-on-one disadvantage against Andre, One Man Gang, and King Kong Bundy. Fewer still will forget Hogan running into the ring after Andre's victory and attacking his former friend with the WWF World championship belt. Andre was irate, and manager Bobby Heenan told a nationwide audience that if Hogan wants Andre, all he has to do is sign a contract.

● Kerry Von Erich, "The Modern-Day Warrior," wrestled in front of his home town fans in Dallas for the first time in nine months at World Class' Thanksgiving show. Kerry was injured in a motorcycle accident in June 1986, and doctors said he would *never* return



Randy Savage and Jake Roberts double-team The Honky Tonk Man, who walked out of the ring rather than face a three-on-one against Savage, Roberts, and Rick Steamboat. Bam Bam Bigelow chose to stay and fight when confronted with a similar situation.

to the ring. But after a long, painful comeback, Kerry's perseverance paid off. Over 6,000 fans at Reunion Arena paid tribute to Kerry, who defeated The Thing in 57 seconds and, in a second match, defeated his former friend Brian Adias.

●Dusty Rhodes scored a stunning upset by defeating Lex Luger at 16:23 of their steel cage match to capture the U.S. title at Starrcade. Years from now, this will be remembered as the match that severed Luger's ties with manager J.J. Dillon and The Four Horsemen. Luger disregarded Dillon's devious game plan when he wouldn't hit Rhodes with the chair Dillon threw over the top of the cage. Less than one week later, the rift between Luger and Dillon became apparent and irreparable.

●Nikita Koloff won a match to unify the NWA and UWF TV titles against Terry Taylor. Title unification matches are so rare, that when one is held it's certain to be remembered. Koloff, the NWA TV champion, was at a disadvantage for most of the match, but Taylor and Gilbert's skulduggery backfired at the 18:55 mark and Nikita



sickled Taylor for the win.

●The AWA World title belt was held up following a match between champion Curt Hennig and challenger Greg Gagne at the Minneapolis Auditorium—thanks to the interference of their fathers, Larry Hennig and Verne Gagne. Greg was on the verge of winning the match when Larry jumped up on the ring apron and started arguing with Greg. Then Verne Gagne got in-

volved and hit Curt with a roll of coins. Larry bodypressed Curt for the win, but AWA President Stanley Blackburn ordered the title held up. The belt was later restored to Curt and a match was scheduled for Christmas Day with one major stipulation: the fathers wouldn't be allowed near the ring. Gagne won that match by disqualification.

●WWF Intercontinental champion The Honky Tonk Man set a new standard in cowardliness by walking back to the dressing room when he faced a three-on-one disadvantage in the opening match of The Survivor Series. Later on, Honky Tonk said that he was the true survivor by walking out of the ring because he wasn't pinned. And he shocked everyone when he challenged Hogan to a title vs. title match. "You're jealous of me," Honky Tonk told Hogan.

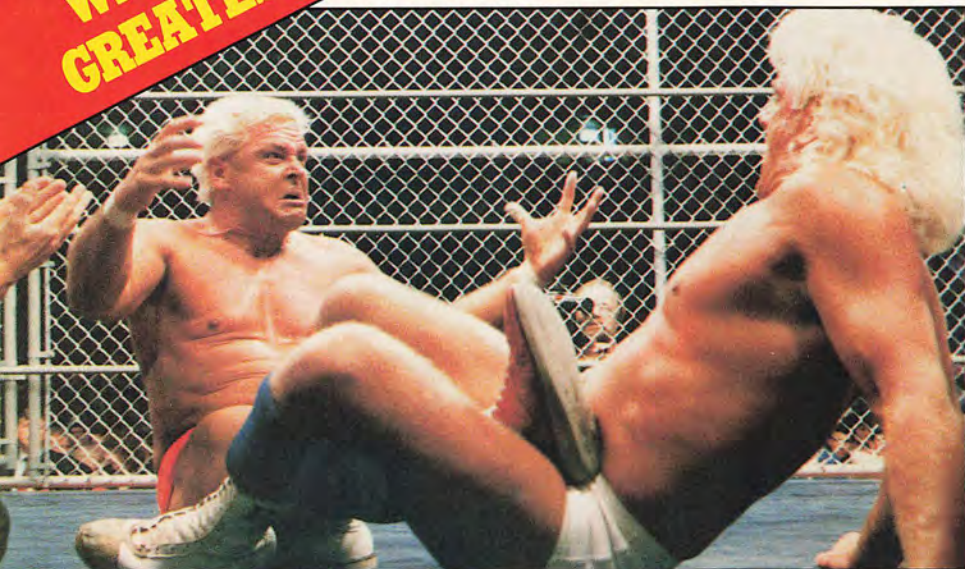
Kerry's perseverance, Flair's determination, Hogan's attack of Andre, and the interference of the fathers in

Greg Gagne dropkicks Curt Hennig, whose AWA World title belt was held up after Larry Hennig and Verne Gagne interfered in their sons' match.

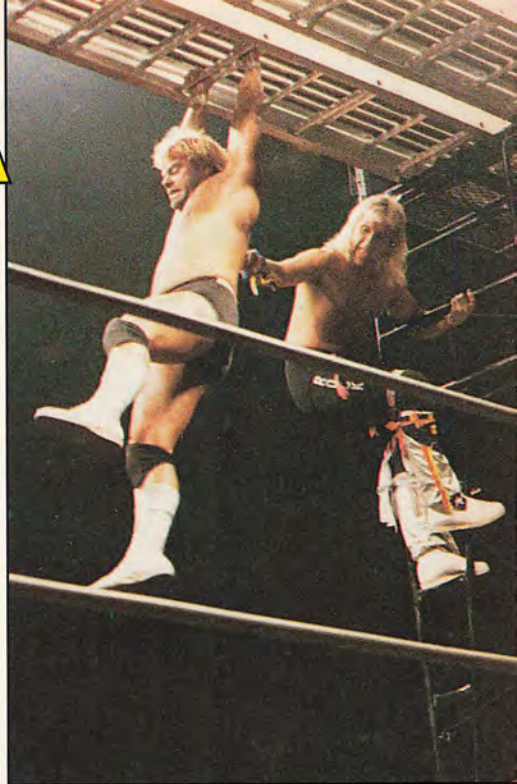
the AWA World title match. And so much more. It was an incredible day for the sport, and *The Wrestler* is proud to have been there to report all the action to you in words and pictures—and, in the special section immediately following, in glorious full-color. Enjoy! □

**WRESTLING'S
GREATEST DAY!**

STARRCADE '87



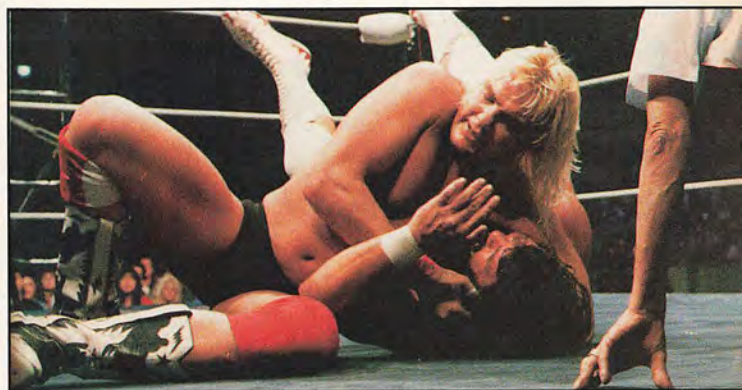
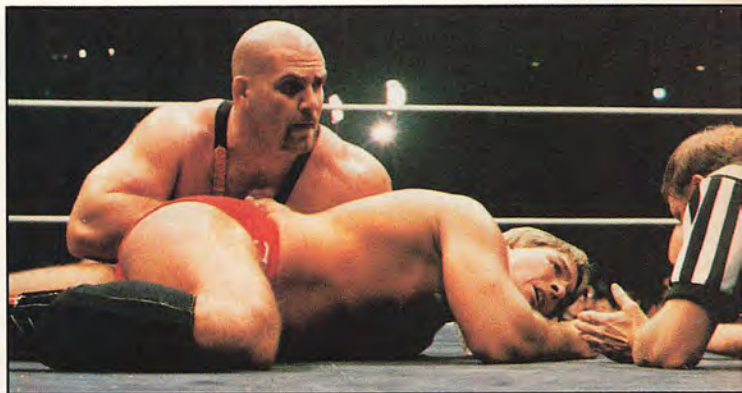
Ronnie Garvin's face is a mask of anger and intensity as he struggles to break Ric Flair's figure-four leglock. Flair went on to regain the NWA World title and begin his fifth reign as champion.



Rick Morton pushes Stan Lane to the mat (above). Nikita Koloff locks up Terry Taylor (below).



Dusty Rhodes' eye is ringed with blood and his arm is locked in Lex Luger's powerful grasp, but he'll rally to capture Luger's U.S. title.



Barry Windham gets the advantage on UWF champion Steve Williams (above). Road Warrior Hawk blasts Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson with a double clothesline (left).

**WRESTLING'S
GREATEST DAY!**

THE SURVIVOR SERIES



Hercules Hernandez gives Jake Roberts a Hercules—an elbowsmash.



The Survivors: Rick Steamboat, Roberts, and Randy Savage, who won after Honky Tonk Man left.



"The Dragon" slams Hercules, who was later eliminated by Savage's flying elbowdrop.



Danny Davis is about to get a double boot in the face from Brutus Beefcake and Steamboat (above). In the women's match, Fabulous Moolah gets ready to catapult Donna Christantello into the turnbuckle (right).





One of the eventual survivors, Paul Roma, is slammed by Jim Neidhart in the rulebreakers' corner. Roma and Jim Powers—The Young Stallions—made an excellent showing in the tag team battle.



Brett Hart confers with Tama as Greg Valentine headlocks Powers.



Ax and Smash victimize Powers deep within enemy territory.



Jim Brunzell goes up high for a legdrop on Haku as Jimmy Hart watches the action.



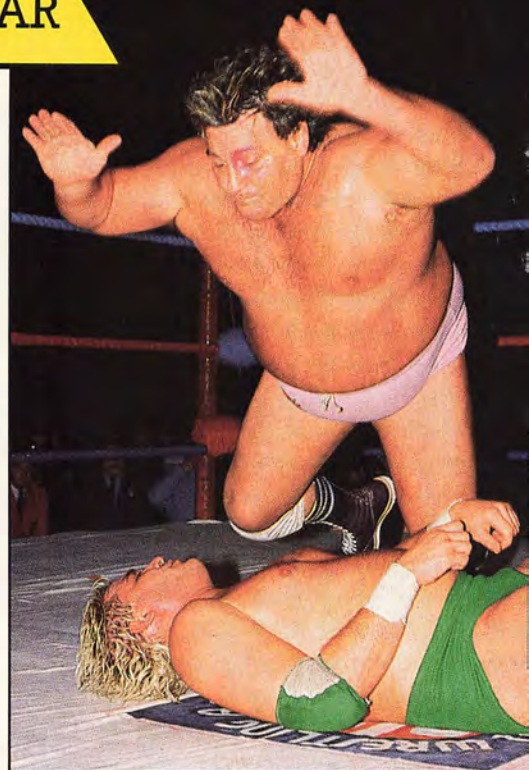
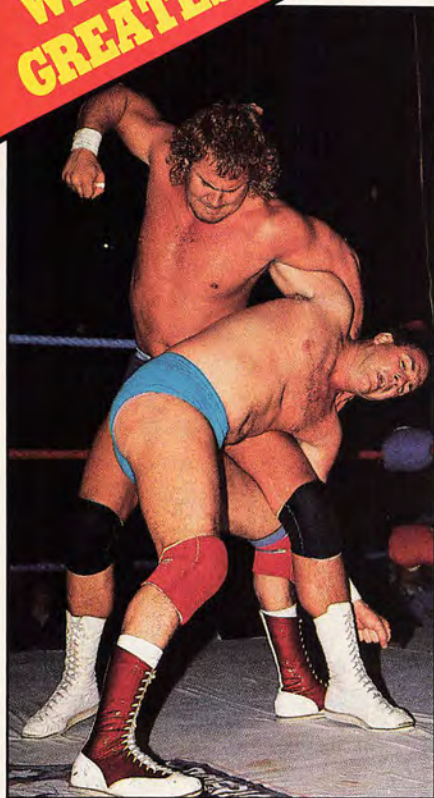
As big as he is, Bam Bam Bigelow is dwarfed by Andre the Giant.



Hulk Hogan whips Rick Rude across the ring (left) and slugs it out with Andre (above) as King Kong Bundy looks on. "The Hulkster" disappointed many fans by being counted out of his match.

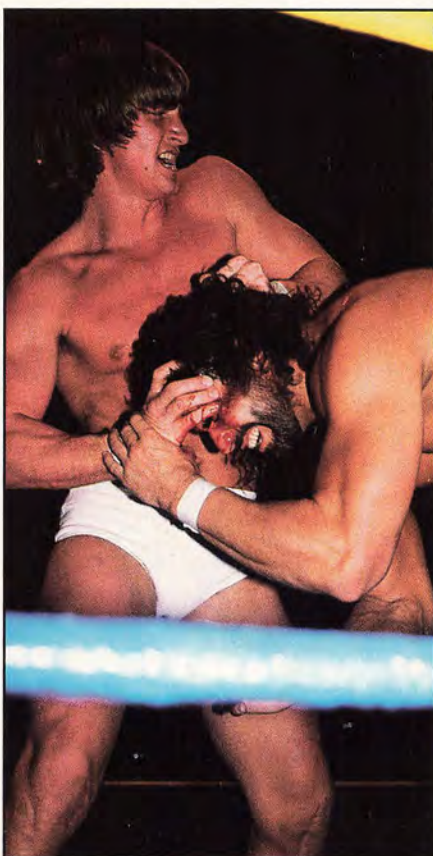
**WRESTLING'S
GREATEST DAY!**

AWA SPECTACULAR

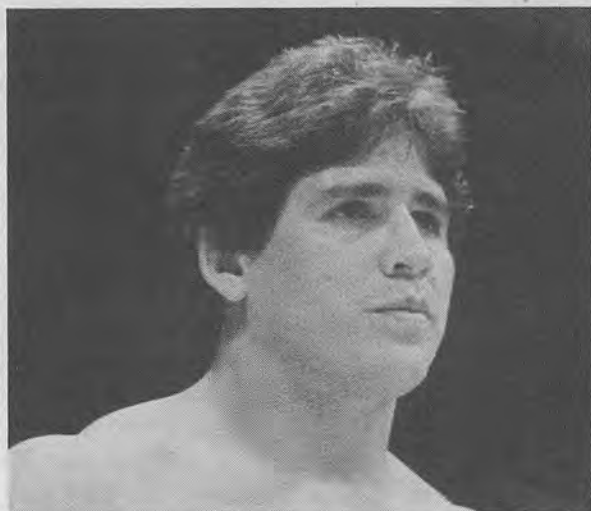


Curt Hennig adds a punch to an abdominal stretch on Greg Gagne (far left). D.J. Peterson armbars Kevin Kelly (left). Adrian Adonis splashes Tommy Rich (above).

WORLD CLASS ACTION

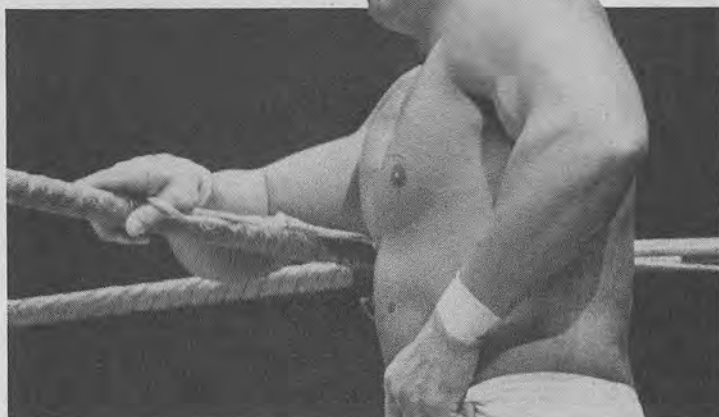


Shaun Simpson catches a bloody Eric Embry in a sleeper (far left). Kevin Von Erich puts the claw on Al Perez (left). Kerry Von Erich gets the better of Brian Adias in a test of strength (above).



Since winning the WWF World tag team belts from The Hart Foundation in October, Strike Force has looked unbeatable. But talks with insiders reveal that the team may already carry within it the seeds of its own destruction!

Former Partners Warn Tito Santana:



RICK MARTEL WILL DESTROY STRIKE FORCE!

AT THE PRESENT moment, Rick Martel and Tito Santana are enjoying the view from high atop the tag team world. Strike Force, the WWF World tag team championship team, has looked razor-sharp in title rematches against The Hart Foundation and subsequent defenses against such teams as The Bolsheviks, The Islanders, Demolition, and the new Dream Team.

Indeed, even many hardcore fans of the NWA or AWA (where Martel and Santana have both wrestled in

the past) maintain a healthy respect for Strike Force's unique combination of scientific and brawling skills. And that's helped them shoot to the top of the ratings in near-record time.

In this month's tag team Top 10, Martel and Santana have locked on to the number-two spot. In time, Strike Force might even be the team capable of weakening The Road Warriors' seemingly unbreakable grip on the number-one rating.

As fans throughout the WWF are saying to each other about Strike

Force: "They're too good to be true."

And maybe they are.

Swept away in the excitement of Strike Force's stirring victory over The Hart Foundation were nagging doubts about their cohesion—doubts that may, before long, force a split before Martel and Santana.

At the time Tom Zenk's abrupt abandonment of Martel severed The Can-Am Connection, Santana was engaged in a heated feud with The Islanders. Martel was looking for a new partner; Santana was

Photos by David Fitzgerald



Strike Force in action: Tito Santana armbars Haku (above); Rick Martel whips Boris Zuhov across the ring (below). The WWF World tag team champions are enjoying a tremendous amount of success now, but Martel's headstrong personality may change all that. Several of Martel's old partners have had problems adjusting to his attitude.



looking for help in his war; the two men joined forces. Strike Force, then, can be considered a stopgap marriage of convenience.

And if you listen to the words of one former NWA World champion, Strike Force may be not so much a marriage of convenience as a marriage doomed to failure.

"Things may seem fine now," said Tommy Rich, who teamed with Martel to capture the Georgia National tag title in 1979, "but believe me when I tell you that it's not going to be easy for Tito. Rick may seem happy-go-lucky on interviews, but he's determined that there's one way to do things—his way.

"You see," Rich continued, "Rick grew up in what I'd call a very strict and close-knit family, a family that had a set way of doing things. Rick picked up that attitude, and it's worked very well for him, it's helped him to succeed in this sport. But, as a result, he carries over that strictness into a team situation. He's a natural leader, and he feels that a partner shouldn't question him. What he doesn't realize is that other guys have taken different paths to get just as high in the sport, that they may be natural leaders, too. Santana is one of them. Tito's no rookie, and he's as independent as Martel. Sooner or later, those two elements of independence are bound to clash."

Indeed, it may have been a similar clash of independent natures that led to Zenk's split from Martel.

"Tom always looked up to Rick," said a mutual friend of both Zenk and Santana who preferred not to be identified, "but I guess you could say that after a while his neck got tired. Rick is a smart guy, and he liked being a sort of mentor to Tom. But there's a point where you stop being a mentor and you start to suffocate somebody, you try to exercise too much control over them. I don't know if Rick actually crossed that line, but maybe Zenk felt that he did."



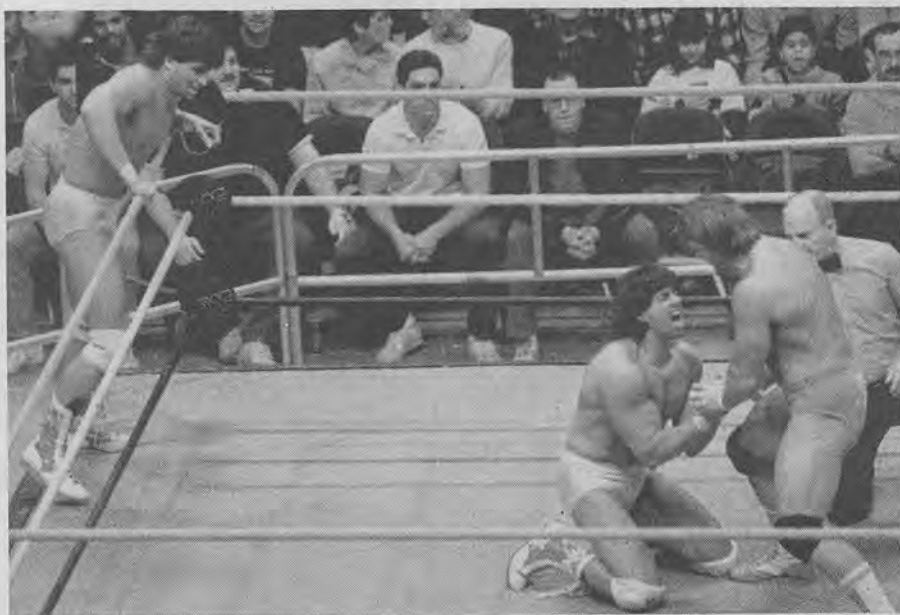
Santana remains in the ring as Martel grabs hold of Barry Horowitz (left). Tommy Rich, who teamed with Martel in 1979 (above), says Santana is too independent to follow Martel's instructions to the letter. The Canadian's most recent split was with Tom Zenk (below, waiting for Martel's tag).

Santana is hardly the kind of a man to allow himself to be placed on the short end of a student-teacher relationship with anyone. A former Intercontinental champion and co-holder of the tag team belts nine years ago with Ivan Putski, Santana has more than paid his dues in the WWF. But Martel is a former *world* champion, and may feel himself to be the senior member of the team.

So what happens when Martel tries to exercise too much power over Santana? And what happens when Santana begins to press for more control of the team?

"I've seen it happen so many times I can't even begin to count," said veteran reporter Matt Brock. "You have two strong personalities, a clash of egos, and before you know it, a team that ought to be ruling the wrestling world for a decade falls apart like a house of cards in a tornado."

One veteran wrestler who has teamed on a steady basis with Martel years back agreed to speak about Strike Force's future, provided we guaranteed his anonymity. "People look at Tito and Rick and see two wrestlers of approximately the same age, the same good looks, even the same wrestling tights," he said. "But you can never make the



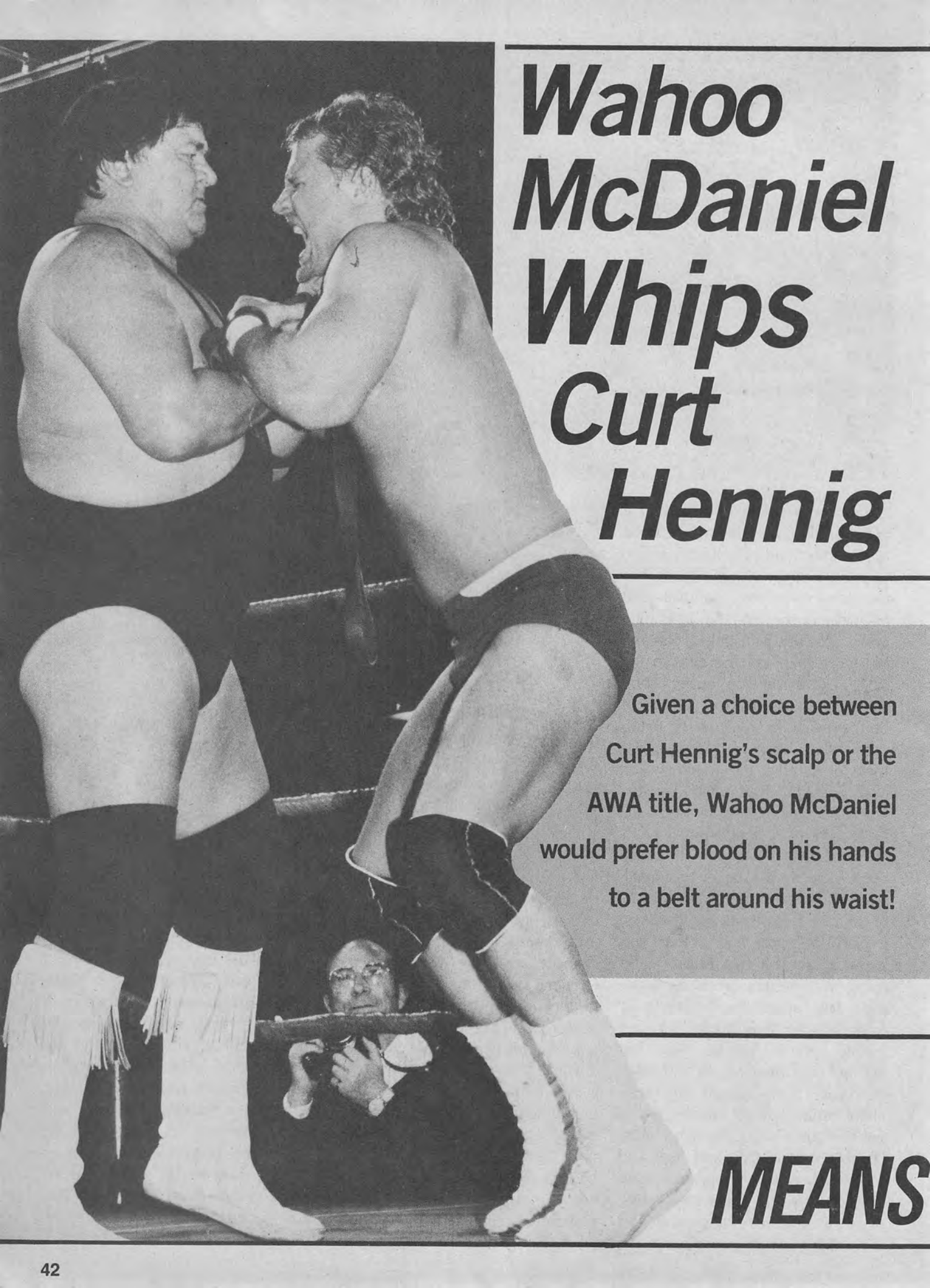
mistake of thinking of two individuals as one. They each have their own desires for their careers, and chances are they won't coincide forever.

"Rick Martel, remember, once held a world title. Once you've had a world *singles* title, it's a huge step down to a world *tag team* title. Tito is very content. He was down for a long time after losing the Intercontinental title to Randy Savage. But now his confidence is soaring, he's back in the limelight, and he's making big money. Knowing Rick, though, he cannot feel totally fulfilled. Somewhere along the line

he's going to make a run for a world title—not necessarily in the WWF, but somewhere. And that will be the end of Strike Force."

The best tag teams—like Strike Force—are greater than the sum of their individual strengths. But the pressure of greatness and the microscope of public attention can also multiply a team's weaknesses.

Strike Force may be able to handle opponents as tough as the Harts, the Bolsheviks, and the Islanders. But as the events of 1988 could demonstrate, their most difficult opponents may well be each other. □



Wahoo McDaniel Whips Curt Hennig

Given a choice between Curt Hennig's scalp or the AWA title, Wahoo McDaniel would prefer blood on his hands to a belt around his waist!

MEANS

THE DRUM BEAT rose steadily. With the full moon as backdrop, the man known only as The Chief raised his golden scepter and began to chant. Four thousand Indians dropped to their knees and joined in solemn supplication. Lost in the vast crowd was Wahoo McDaniel, whose distinguished career as a professional wrestler meant little in these environs. The ceremony continued until sunrise, when the proud nation dispersed to more secular surroundings.

A reporter met McDaniel at a nearby coffee shop where, over pan-

cakes and eggs, the Indian explained the significance of the previous evening's events.

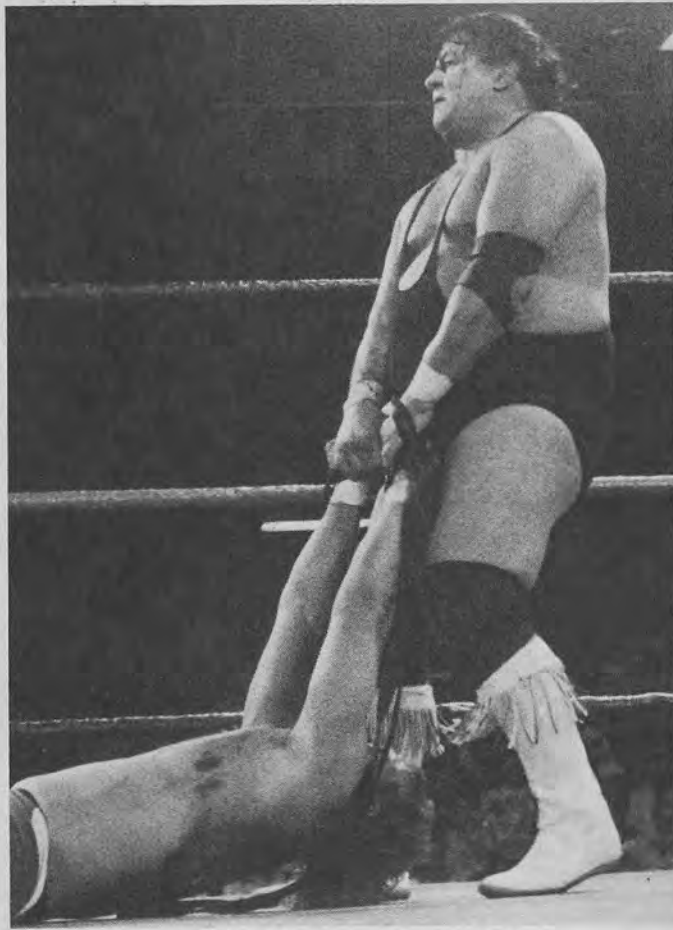
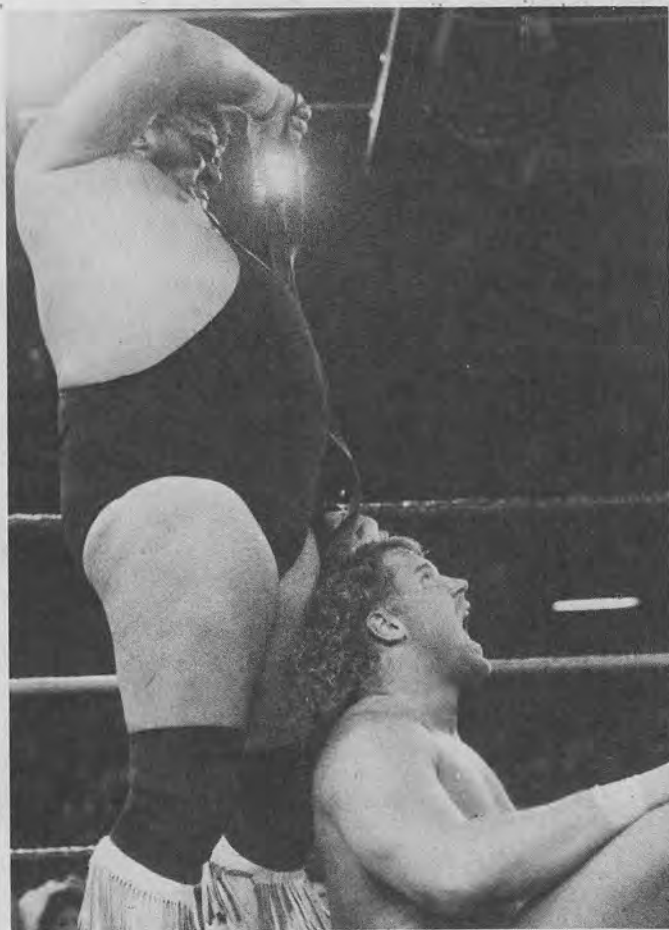
"American Indians are like any other religious group," McDaniel said. "There are orthodox practitioners of the ancient ways and those who reject the old ways as outdated and old-fashioned. When I was growing up on the reservation, my parents made me attend all the rituals. I remember sweating my brains out in a headdress while the rest of my friends were out playing. All I wanted was to assimilate into American culture. I couldn't wait to get to

college, play football, and drive a big Cadillac.

"As I grew older and moved into the ring, I realized the pursuit of titles and fame and paychecks had left a gaping hole in my life. Spiritually, I was empty. I was Chief Wahoo McDaniel in name only. The name attracted a lot of attention, but meant little else.

"Then, about 15 years ago, I returned to the reservation to visit the family. The old ways didn't seem as odd as they once did. I attended several prayer ceremonies, began ob-

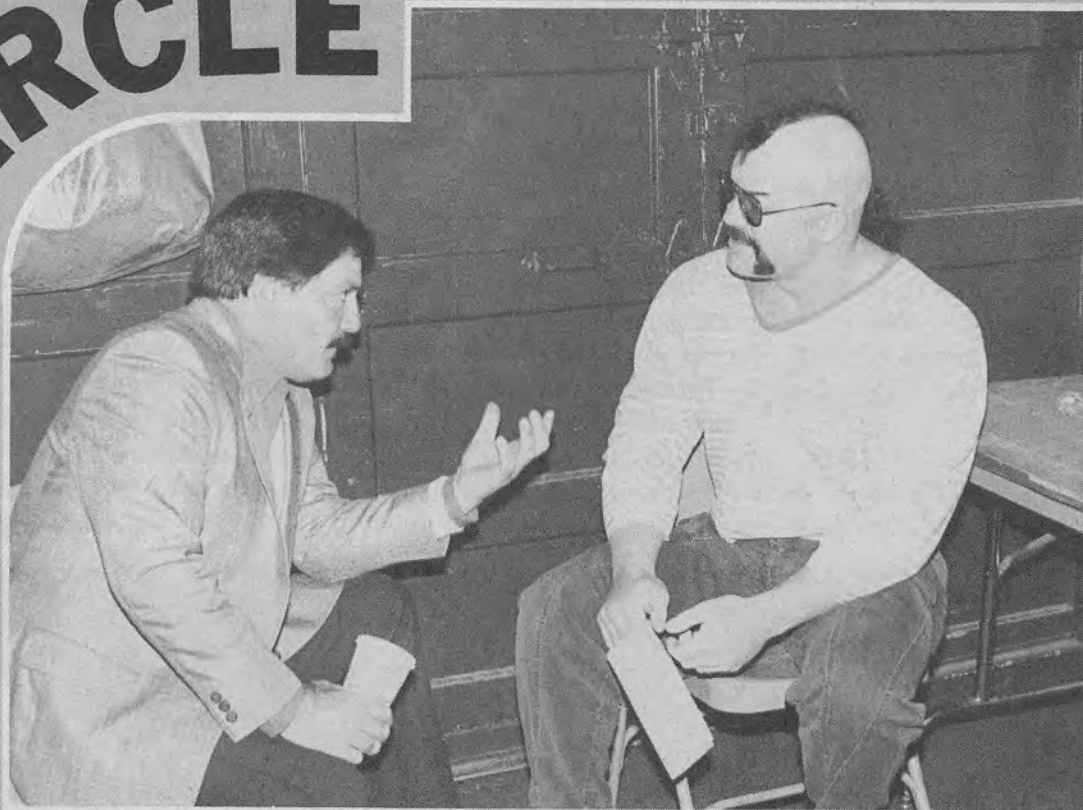
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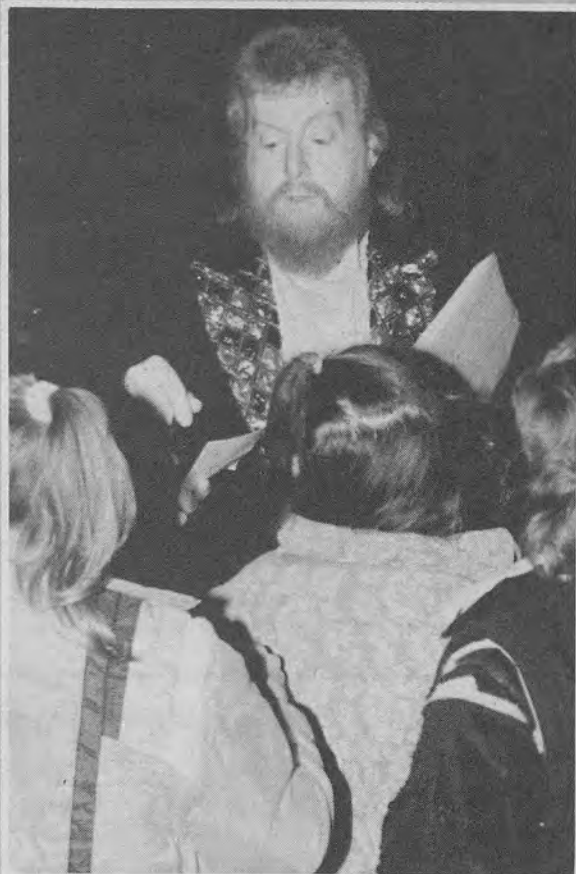
Curt Hennig braces for a whack of the strap from Wahoo McDaniel (above left), the sport's recognized master of the Indian strap match. McDaniel drags Hennig to the corner on his way to another strap match victory (above right).

***"MY STRAP MATCH VICTORY
MORE THAN THE AWA TITLE!"***

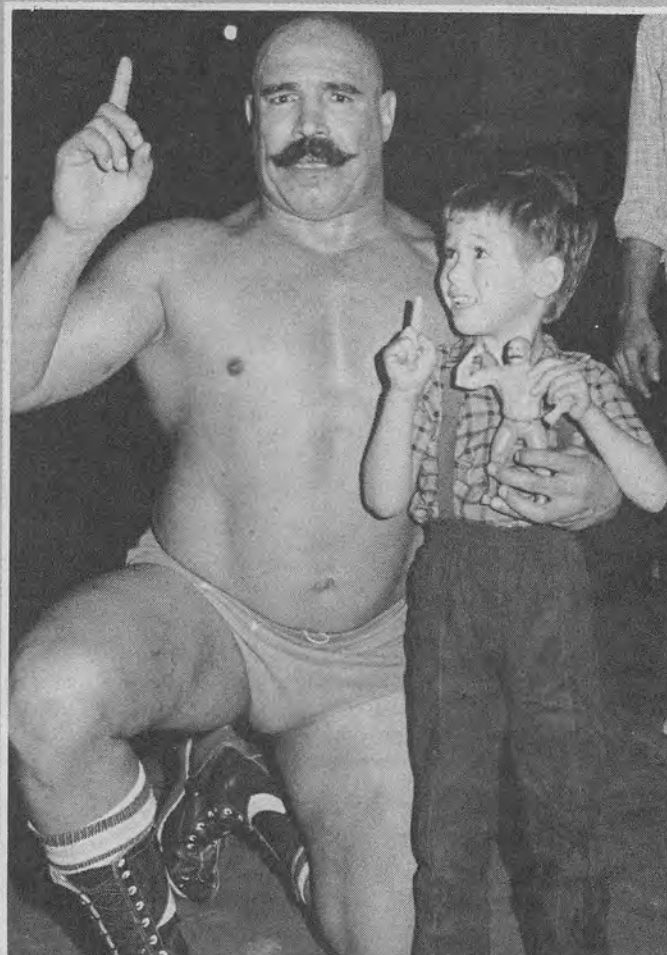
BEYOND THE SQUARED CIRCLE



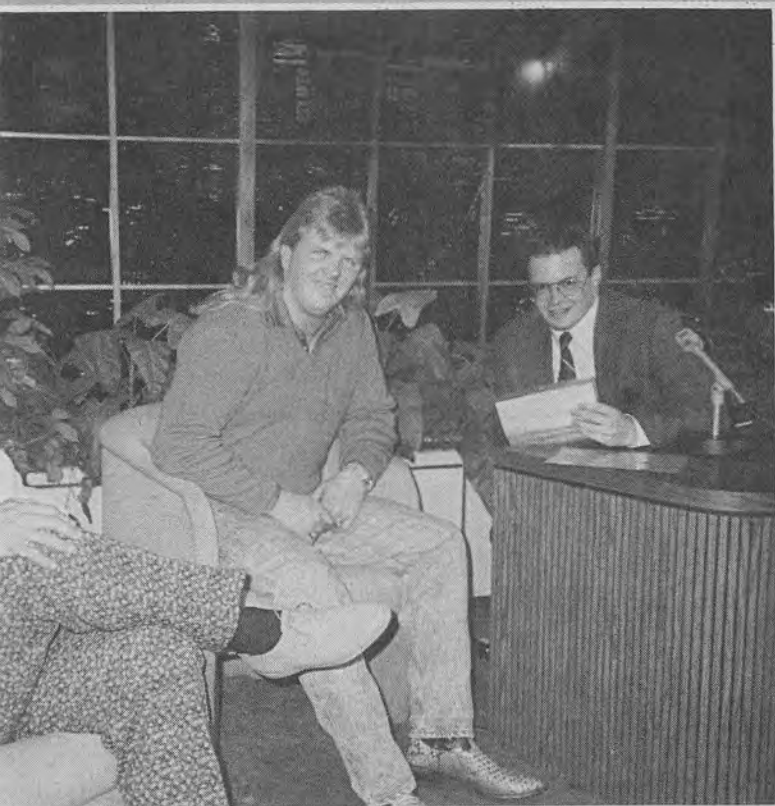
▲ Paul Jones tries to tell Teijho Khan what he's doing wrong, but apparently the message didn't get through. Jones fired Khan shortly after this discussion.



▲ Oliver Humperdink is mobbed by autograph seekers. The manager of Bam Bam Bigelow and Paul Orndorff is thrilled by his new popularity.



▲ Iran, number one? Well, at least that's what The Iron Sheik thinks, and even *he* has his fans.



◀ No, Jim Cornette is not substituting for Johnny Carson this week. He and his *Midnight Express* sat on the old *Tonight Show* set while on a tour of NBC studios in New York.



▲ Rick Martel has a chuckle at Bam Bam Bigelow's expense. Could you imagine Martel with a tattooed head?



▲ A relaxing dip in the pool is just the thing Kevin Sullivan needs before a night at the matches.



▲ Unlike most men, Magnum T.A. is not too impressed with Missy Hyatt's calendar pose. That's probably because he worked with Missy on the "Danger Zone" video.

◀ Blackjack Lanza, Bobby Heenan, and Nick Bockwinkel arrive at yet another WWF arena. Heenan managed Lanza and Bockwinkel for many years in the AWA.

Wrestler^{THE}



Hulk Hogan

TOP 10

- 1 HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
WWF World champion
- 2 RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
NWA World champion
- 3 NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
NWA TV champion
- 4 RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
No. 1 contender: WWF I-C title
- 5 DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
U.S. heavyweight champion
- 6 STEVE WILLIAMS**
265, Norman, OK
UWF heavyweight champion
- 7 BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
Western States champion
- 8 CURT HENNIG**
235, Minneapolis, MN
AWA World champion
- 9 LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
No. 1 contender: U.S. title
- 10 AL PEREZ**
238, Tampa, FL
World Class heavyweight champion

TAG TEAMS

- 1 THE ROAD WARRIORS**
Combined weight: 567 pounds
No. 1 contenders to NWA tag team title
- 2 RICK MARTEL & TITO SANTANA**
Combined weight: 489 pounds
WWF World tag team champions
- 3 TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON**
Combined weight: 484 pounds
NWA World tag team champions
- 4 BOBBY EATON & STAN LANE**
Combined weight: 453 pounds
U.S. tag team champions
- 5 BRETT HART & JIM NEIDHART**
Combined weight: 515 pounds
No. 1 contenders: WWF tag team title
- 6 THE ISLANDERS**
Combined weight: 472 pounds
No. 3 contenders: WWF tag team title
- 7 THE BRITISH BULLDOGS**
Combined weight: 461 pounds
No. 2 contenders: WWF tag team title
- 8 DENNIS CONDREY & RANDY ROSE**
Combined weight: 461 pounds
AWA World tag team champions
- 9 THE SHEEPHERDERS**
Combined weight: 542 pounds
No. 3 contenders to NWA World title
- 10 THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS**
Combined weight: 461 pounds
CWA tag team champions

NWA

World Champion:
RIC FLAIR

243, Minneapolis, MN

- 1—DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 2—STEVE WILLIAMS**
265, Norman, OK
- 3—LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
- 4—NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
- 5—BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
- 6—MICHAEL HAYES**
255, Marietta, GA
- 7—STING**
270, parts unknown
- 8—RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 9—TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
- 10—LARRY ZBYSZKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA

AWA

World Champion:
CURT HENNIG

235, Minneapolis, MN

- 1—GREG GAGNE**
220, Robbinsdale, MN
- 2—WAHOO McDANIEL**
260, Midland, TX
- 3—JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
- 4—KEVIN KELLY**
271, Oakland, CA
- 5—ADRIAN ADONIS**
312, New York, NY
- 6—NICK KINISKI**
220, Edmonton, AL
- 7—JEFF JARRETT**
200, Hendersonville, TN
- 8—JERRY BLACKWELL**
474, Stone Mountain, GA
- 9—MITCH SNOW**
220, Mooresville, NC
- 10—J.T. SOUTHERN**
254, Asbury Park, NJ

WWF

World Champion:
HULK HOGAN

302, Venice Beach, CA

- 1—THE HONKY TONK MAN**
255, Memphis, TN
- 2—RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
- 3—TED DiBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
- 4—BAM BAM BIGELOW**
368, Mt. Laurel, NJ
- 5—RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
- 6—ONE MAN GANG**
468, Chicago, IL
- 7—ANDRE THE GIANT**
497, Grenoble, France
- 8—RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 9—JAKE ROBERTS**
246, Stone Mountain, GA
- 10—HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY

WORLD CLASS

World Class Champion:
AL PEREZ

238, Tampa, FL

- 1—KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
- 2—MATT BORNE**
235, Portland, OR
- 3—KEVIN VON ERICH**
235, Denton, TX
- 4—CHRIS ADAMS**
228, Stratford, England
- 5—ERIC EMBRY**
225, Lexington, KY
- 6—SHAUN SIMPSON**
200, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 7—BRIAN ADIAS**
238, Denton, TX
- 8—TERRY GORDY**
289, Chaitanooga, TN
- 9—TONY ATLAS**
247, Roanoke, VA
- 10—THE IRON SHEIK**
262, Teheran, Iran

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings.

MOST POPULAR

MOST HATED

- 1 HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
Last issue: No. 1 Most Popular
- 2 RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
Last issue: No. 2 Most Popular
- 3 DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
Last issue: No. 3 Most Popular
- 4 LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
Last issue: No. 3 Most Hated
- 5 NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
Last issue: No. 4 Most Popular
- 6 KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
Last issue: unrated
- 7 BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
Last issue: No. 5 Most Popular
- 8 JAKE ROBERTS**
246, Stone Mountain, GA
Last issue: No. 6 Most Popular
- 9 STING**
270, parts unknown
Last issue: No. 7 Most Popular
- 10 JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
Last issue: No. 10 Most Popular

- 1 TED DIBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
Last issue: No. 5 Most Hated
- 2 RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
Last issue: No. 2 Most Hated
- 3 ANDRE THE GIANT**
497, Grenoble, France
Last issue: unrated
- 4 TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
Last issue: No. 4 Most Hated
- 5 THE HONKY TONK MAN**
255, Memphis, TN
Last issue: No. 1 Most Hated
- 6 LARRY ZBYSZKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA
Last issue: No. 6 Most Hated
- 7 TERRY TAYLOR**
225, Vero Beach, FL
Last issue: No. 7 Most Hated
- 8 CURT HENNIG**
235, Minneapolis, MN
Last issue: No. 8 Most Hated
- 9 ONE MAN GANG**
468, Chicago, IL
Last issue: unrated
- 10 AL PEREZ**
238, Tampa, FL
Last issue: No. 10 Most Hated

STAMPEDE

North American Champion:
OWEN HART

223, Calgary, Alberta

- 1—GAMA SINGH**
220, Karachi, Pakistan
- 2—JASON THE TERRIBLE**
270, parts unknown
- 3—COL. KIRCHNER**
260, Ft. Bragg, NC
- 4—MAKHAN SINGH**
380, Saginaw, MI
- 5—BRIAN PILLMAN**
226, Cincinnati, OH
- 6—STEVE DISALVO**
298, Boston, MA
- 7—HIRO HASE**
226, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- 8—PHIL LAFLEUR**
245, Montreal, Quebec
- 9—BRUCE HART**
211, Calgary, Alberta
- 10—KERRY BROWN**
225, Kansas City, MO

CWA

CWA Champion:
JERRY LAWLER

234, Memphis, TN

- 1—BILL DUNDEE**
214, Melbourne, Australia
- 2—MANNY FERNANDEZ**
245, El Paso, TX
- 3—SCOTT HALL**
290, Minneapolis, MN
- 4—JIMMY JACK FUNK**
243, Portland, OR
- 5—JEFF JARRETT**
200, Hendersonville, TN
- 6—HECTOR GUERRERO**
218, Mexico City, Mexico
- 7—TEIHO KHAN**
265, Mongolia
- 8—CARL FERGIE**
230, Memphis, TN
- 9—DON BASS**
230, Memphis, TN
- 10—BILLY TRAVIS**
218, Houston, TX

CONTINENTAL

Continental Champion:
LORD HUMONGOUS

245, parts unknown

- 1—DUTCH MANTEL**
224, Oil Trough, TX
- 2—DAN DAVIS**
238, Nashville, TN
- 3—WENDELL COOLEY**
220, Milton, FL
- 4—DOUG FURNAS**
265, Commerce, OK
- 5—TOM PRITCHARD**
220, Houston, TX
- 6—THE BULLET**
234, parts unknown
- 7—TONY ANTHONY**
235, Bucksnorth, TN
- 8—ROBERT FULLER**
238, Dyresburg, TN
- 9—MONGOLIAN STOMPER**
239, Mongolia
- 10—JIMMY GOLDEN**
235, Montgomery, AL

TRANS WORLD

Trans World Champion:
JULES STRONGBOW

240, Pawhuska, OK

- 1—THE IRON SHEIK**
262, Teheran, Iran
- 2—ROCKY JOHNSON**
246, Toronto, Ontario
- 3—SGT. SLAUGHTER**
310, Parris Island, SC
- 4—DAVID SHULTZ**
265, Memphis, TN
- 5—SAMOAN AFA**
295, Samoa
- 6—THE MISSING LINK**
273, parts unknown
- 7—YUKON JACK**
320, Anchorage, AK
- 8—SALVATORE BELLOMO**
240, Rome, Italy
- 9—TONGA KID II**
230, Tonga
- 10—EXECUTIONER I**
241, parts unknown

For period ended January 1, 1988

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of those issues—in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only—and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a number-one rating, nine for a number-two ranking, and so on down to one point for a number-10 rating. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, allowing a maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

- 1—HULK HOGAN** 97 points
- 2—RIC FLAIR** 91 points
- 3—NIKITA KOLOFF** 61 points
- 4—BARRY WINDHAM** 56 points
- 5—LEX LUGER** 46 points

TAG TEAMS

- 1—THE ROAD WARRIORS** 100 points
- 2—THE HART FOUNDATION** 78 points
- 3—BOBBY EATON & STAN LANE** 61 points
- 4—THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS** 48 points
- 5—TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON** ... 42 points

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Goodbye, UWF! Jim Crockett Promotions made a blockbuster announcement in late December with the news that the UWF had merged into the NWA. The UWF tag team title was eliminated, UWF wrestlers would wrestle in the NWA, the Western States title would become a full-fledged NWA championship, and a unification bout between the UWF heavyweight champion and the NWA World champion would be held in February, with the winner of that bout to be named NWA World champion.



Barry Windham

Very simply, here's what this means: The **Sheepherders**, who held the UWF tag belts at the time of the announcement, are now contenders for the NWA World and U.S. tag titles. **Barry Windham**, the Western States champ, will defend his belt in the NWA. And if **Steve Williams** can retain his UWF title, he'll have a big chance to go after the NWA World championship. If somebody else wins the belt from Williams, they'll get the chance. The UWF TV title was unified with the NWA TV title at Starrcade '87

when **Nikita Koloff** defeated **Terry Taylor**.

Here's how this affects our ratings: First, the UWF ratings have been eliminated. Wrestlers from the UWF now wrestling in the NWA will be included in the NWA ratings. The number-one contender's spot in the NWA is still reserved for the U.S. champion, currently **Dusty Rhodes**. The number-two spot will be filled by the UWF heavyweight champion until the unification match is held. The unified NWA/UWF TV champ is now called the NWA TV champ. The Western States champ will, naturally, be rated highly in the NWA, but no automatic rating will be provided that title.

As for the overall implications of the merger, remember that not too long ago there was talk of granting the UWF heavyweight championship world title status. In fact, many fans thought we should take world title status away from the AWA and give it to the UWF. Now the UWF is gone, the AWA is still in existence, and we're glad we didn't act too hastily!

Goodbye World Championship!... although not as literally as the UWF. World Championship Wrestling still exists; you can see it every Saturday and Sunday on SuperStation WTBS. But we've decided to follow your advice and remove the World Championship category from our ratings pages. It's simply a waste of space.

Back in the September 1987 issue of *The Wrestler*, we asked the readers whether we should eliminate the WCW category, citing the increasing influence of the World Championship area in the NWA and noting that the NWA ratings are almost exclusively dominated by WCW wrestlers. A majority of those responding said that the NWA and World Championship ratings should be combined into one category.

Before making any changes, we decided to take a closer look at the situation. With the Florida area only a fond memory, it has become even more apparent that World Championship and the

NWA are virtually one and the same. Last month, for example, only three men—**Sting**, **Barry Windham**, and **Terry Taylor**—from an area besides World Championship were listed in the NWA ratings. All three men are from the UWF, which, of course, has now been absorbed into the NWA.

Hello CWA! The UWF ratings are gone. The World Championship ratings are gone. You also might have noticed a seemingly new area, the CWA. That stands for the Championship Wrestling Association, formerly known as Mid-Southern. In early December, Mid-Southern officials decided to change the federation's name to CWA and drop the AWA prefix from their titles.



Jerry Lawler

The CWA board of directors then held a tournament to unify the AWA Southern, AWA International, and Mid-America belts into the CWA championship. **Jerry Lawler**, **Jeff Jarrett**, and **Manny Fernandez** (the holders of those three titles) competed in a round-robin tournament on December 7 in Memphis, won by Lawler. Now there's a CWA heavyweight champion (Lawler) and a CWA tag team championship—formerly known as the AWA Southern tag championship—now held by **The Midnight Rockers**. The CWA still recognizes the AWA World heavyweight and tag team champions, and CWA wrestlers will sometimes appear in the AWA ratings.

And hello cumulative ratings! To fill the space vacated by the UWF and WCW ratings, we've added cumulative ratings. Readers of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* have seen this before in our year-end issue, where we use a point system to add up the Top 10 singles and tag team ratings for the past year. In this case, we'll add up the Top 10 singles and tag team ratings for the past 10 issues and list the top five in each category. For a more detailed explanation of this new monthly category, check out the ratings pages.

Finally, the revolving ratings category. This month, it's Trans World Wrestling, an independent federation that runs shows in New England and Pennsylvania. You're sure to recognize many of the names in this growing federation: heavyweight champion **Jules Strongbow** is the son of **Chief Jay Strongbow** and a former WWF World tag team champion. **The Iron Sheik** is making good use of his frequent-flyer program, wrestling for several federations around the country, including the World Class. **Rocky Johnson** and **Salvatore Bellomo** are former WWF favorites. **Sgt. Slaughter**, defender of the United States of America, continues his feud with **The Iron Sheik**. The talent roster also includes "Dr. D" **David Shultz** and former World Class, UWF, and WWF star **The Missing Link**.

Did we give you enough to write about? We expect the mail to come flooding in because of the drastic changes on our ratings pages. Were we right to eliminate the World Championship ratings? Are cumulative ratings a good idea? What could we have done instead? We want to know. Send all mail to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o *The Wrestler*, Box 48; Rockville Centre, NY 11571. □

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LEX LUGER

(Continued from page 31)



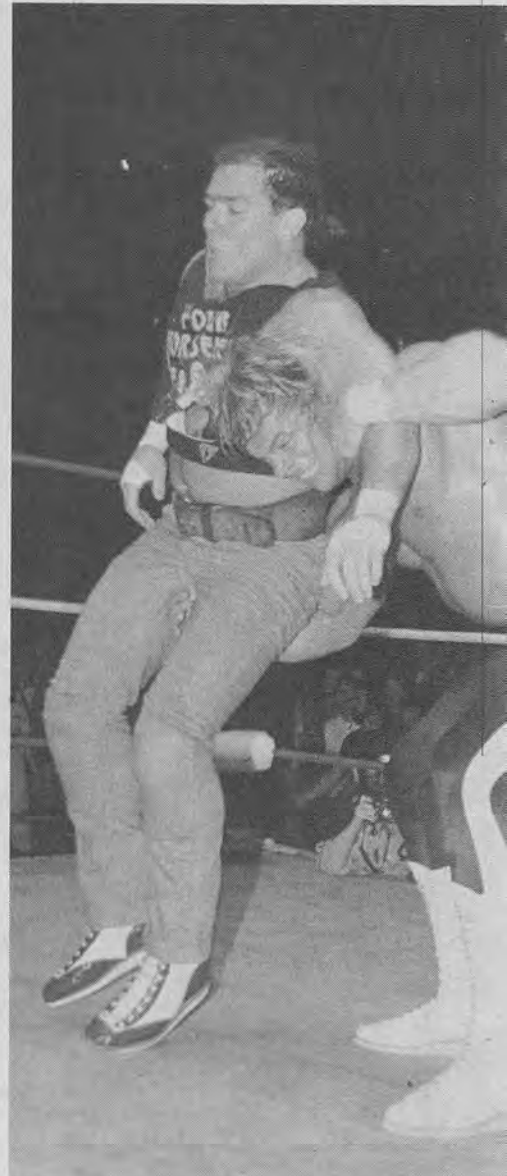
Tully and Arn double-team Luger after seeing him toss their manager over the ropes (above). Luger sets Arn up for an Irish whip (below). Luger has concentrated his attacks on the Horsemen—particularly Blanchard (right)—during many of the Bunkhouse Stampede cards, and is determined to eliminate all his former partners.



'Go ahead, do whatever you want,' because I knew he didn't care about the team. I was against him joining the Horsemen from the start, but then everything happened with Ole, and J.J. told us Luger was one of the best young prospects in wrestling. He's right about that, but Luger had better get his head on straight or he's gonna find himself out of this game real fast."

Arn could be right. If Luger tries to take on the Horsemen by himself, he'll quickly find that a four-on-one disadvantage could be hazardous to his future. Luger might be wise to recruit the help of Barry Windham, his former tag team partner in Florida. Dusty Rhodes is also a possibility; Rhodes expressed admiration for Luger after winning the U.S. title and is always willing to help another wrestler take on the Horsemen.

Luger, however, thinks he can handle the Horsemen by himself.



"This is my battle," he said. "I'm fully aware of my abilities and I'm not going in over my head. I am 'The Total Package,' and that means looks, power, wrestling ability, and brains. I'm no idiot. I know I can stand alone and take on Flair, Anderson, Blanchard—even Dillon if he's stupid enough to get involved."

Luger's war with the Horsemen figures to be one of the most intriguing feuds of 1988. Whether he will survive is another story. Luger says he isn't through with the Horsemen. But when the Horsemen are through with him, will Luger be finished? □

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June 1982/COLOR PINUP: Nick Bockwinkel. **Adonis & Ventura**, Snuka, Patera, Flair.

August 1982/COLOR PINUP: Dino Bravo. **Steamboat & Rich**, Andre, Martel, Piper, Blassie.

October 1982/COLOR PINUP: Jerry Lawler. **Ric Flair**, Rhodes, Graham, Race, Funk Jr.

January 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ken Patera. **Rick Steamboat**, Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

February 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Putski. **Rhodes vs. Garvin**, Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

April 1983/COLOR PINUP: Superstar Graham. **Mil Mascaras**, Valentine, Orndorff, Hart.

June 1983/COLOR PINUP: Cowboy Bob Orton. **Rick Martel**, Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.



JULY 1983

July 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Koloff. **Tommy Rich**, Patera, Von Erich, Snuka.

August 1983/COLOR PINUP: Larry Zbyszko. **Roddy Piper**, Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

October 1983/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Tommy Rich**, Johnson, Adonis, Rhodes, Piper.

November 1983/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper. **Harley Race**, Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

December 1983/COLOR PINUP: Wahoo McDaniel. **Dusty Rhodes**, Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

January 1984/COLOR PINUP: Harley Race. **Rick Martel**, Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

February 1984/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Sunshine. **Greg Valentine**, Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

May 1984/COLOR PINUP: Hacksaw Butch Reed. **Hulk Hogan**, Road Warriors, Fabulous Ones, Flair, Rotundo.

June 1984/COLOR PINUP: Dick Slater. **Ted DiBiase**, Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, Hogan.

July 1984/COLOR PINUP: Paul Ellering. **Jimmy Valiant**, JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

August 1984/COLOR PINUP: Stan Hansen. **Jerry Lawler**, Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell & Patera, Flair.

October 1984/COLOR PINUP: Billy Jack. **Kerry Von Erich**, Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

November 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Sgt. Slaughter**, Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana. **Road Warriors**, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR PINUP: Magnum T.A. **Rick Martel**, Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

April 1985/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin. **Jimmy Snuka**, Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

June 1985/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham. **Dusty Rhodes**, Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, T.A.

July 1985/COLOR PINUP: Sgt. Slaughter. **Hogan vs. Piper**, Warriors, One Man Gang, T.A., Martel.

September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Magnum T.A.**, Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

October 1985/COLOR PINUP: Chris Adams. **Rick Steamboat**, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

November 1985/COLOR PINUP: Randy Savage. **Ric Flair**, Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

December 1985/COLOR PINUP: Jesse Ventura. **Great American Bash**, Von Erich, Orndorff, Williams & DiBiase.

January 1986/COLOR PINUP: Hacksaw Duggan. **Hulk Hogan**, T.A., Brody.

February 1986/COLOR PINUP: Nikita Koloff. **Mike Von Erich**, Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.

April 1986/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair. **Wendi Richter**, Adams & Hernandez, Dusty & Warriors vs. Flair & Andersons.

May 1986/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat. **Road Warriors**, Humongous, Bulldogs, Hansen vs. Martel.

June 1986/COLOR PINUP: Kevin Von Erich. **Hulk Hogan**, Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.

July 1986/COLOR PINUP: King Kong Bundy. **R & R Express**, Hall and Hennig, Ventura, Warriors.

August 1986/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes. **Randy Savage**, Lugar vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

October 1986/COLOR PINUP: John Studd. **Nikita Koloff**, Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Lugar, Simpson.

November 1986/COLOR PINUP: Baby Doll. **British Bulldogs**, Von Erich, Hansen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arn-Ole.

December 1986/COLOR PINUP: Great American Bash. **Great American Bash**, Midnight Rockers, Von Erich, Windham.

January 1987/COLOR PINUP: Fabulous Freebirds. **Roddy Piper**, Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.

February 1987/COLOR PINUP: Savage & Elizabeth. **UWF Tournament**, T.A., Baby Doll, Hogan vs. Orndorff.

April 1987/COLOR PINUP: Lex Luger. **Dusty & Nikita**, DiBiase, DeBeers, Dingo, WWF Housecleaning.

May 1987/COLOR PINUP: Steve Williams. **Andre-Hogan**, UWF Tourney, Albano, Cornette, Dynamite Kid, Kerry.

June 1987/COLOR PINUP: Hulk Hogan. **Magnum T.A.**, Can-Ams, Warriors, Freebirds, Hall.

July 1987/COLOR PINUP: Midnight Rockers. **Steamboat-Savage**, Luger, Duggan, Garvins, Sting.

August 1987/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Precious. **Hogan-Andre**, Warriors, Windham-Flair, Gordy, Bigelow.



OCTOBER 1987

October 1987/COLOR PINUP: Ted DiBiase. **Ric Flair**, Williams, Rockers, Hogan vs. Steamboat, NWA & WWF.

November 1987/COLOR PINUP: George Steele. **Nikita Koloff**, Warriors, Harts, Hogan, Windham.

January 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Road Warriors. **Ted DiBiase**, Flair-Garvins, Hogan & Ventura, Zbyszko.

February 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin. **Randy Savage**, Garvin-Flair, Von Erichs, Freebirds.

April 1988/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Lex Luger**, Flair-Garvin, Kerry, Survivor Series, Iron Sheik.

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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 6)

because you know in the back of your mind that he is.

Flair never backs down from a challenge, and he gives a title shot to whomever asks for one. In the ring he always has a game plan, and knows ahead of time exactly what he has to do to counter-attack his opponents' moves. Yes, he may do some things that are questionable to others. But in the end he remains on top, and that is what being a great athlete is all about.

Everyone is allowed to have their own personal feelings about Flair. But when you start judging his wrestling ability, it's time to learn how to separate wrestling and personality and not let one influence the other.

STACIE WINCALOW

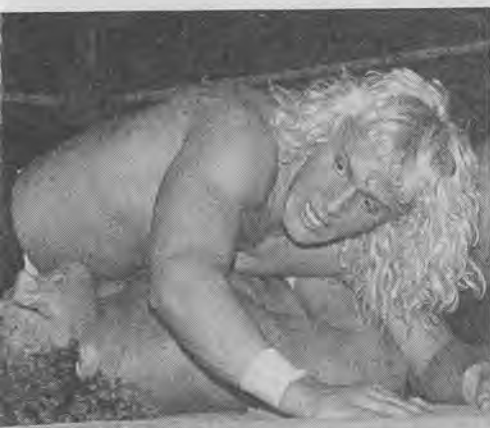
McKees Rocks, PA

LOOK WHO'S TALKING

I found the article on Curt Hennig and Jeff Jarrett ("Curt Hennig's Memphis Mission: Make A Man Out Of Jeff Jarrett!" February 1988) very amusing. I have only one question: How can Hennig make a man out of Jarrett when he's not one himself? I've watched Hennig since he "won" the AWA World title. He's the sorriest excuse for a champion I've seen in the eight years I've followed this sport.

Yes, Jarrett has some growing up to do, but give the guy a break; he's still a rookie. You treat him as though he should have defeated Hennig his first time out. All Jarrett has now is a foundation, but it's a good foundation that he can build upon. I have been watching Jarrett with interest. He'll gradually learn and mature. He'll develop the killer instinct in time. When he combines that with his wrestling skills, he will be virtually unstoppable. He'll gain some weight, stop shaking hands at the beginning of every match, and he'll learn what a closed fist is for.

And Jarrett will learn to mix it up with the best of them as well as



Jeff Jarrett goes for the pin against Curt Hennig. Hennig is wrong if he thinks he can change Jarrett, writes Sandra Swearengin.

wrestle with the best of them. Curt Hennig, step in front of a mirror. The guy you're looking at still has a lot of growing up to do, too.

SANDRA SWEARENGIN
Dothan, AL

WHERE'S BRODY'S BELT?

In your article "Why Curt Hennig Will Never Get The Respect He Deserves" (January 1988), you quoted Bruiser Brody as saying that Hennig is no world champion. At one time I had great respect for Brody, but now what is he? Is he a world champion? No. He holds no title worth mentioning. He has been given shots at all the world titles and come up with nothing. So who is he to criticize Hennig? He runs from promotion to promotion without even picking up one title. So as they say, Mr. Brody, "put up or shut up."

JEFFREY REICKERT
Farmingdale, NY

A DISGRACE

Danny Davis is a disgrace to my home town of Dover, New Hampshire. It's really a beautiful city. He used to be okay, but since he joined with Jimmy Hart he's become despicable. He even attacked Sam Houston while he was being interviewed by Craig DeGeorge!

On the other hand, Sam Houston is terrific! He's so cute! I love his dance. I can't wait for a rematch between Sam and Danny Davis. Or

(Continued on page 54)

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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 53)



Danny Davis uses the ropes to choke Koko B. Ware. Reader Jenny LaMott thinks Davis is an embarrassment to her home town. She can't wait for Sam Houston to embarrass Davis.

how about joining Sam and Hacksaw Duggan in a tag team? They were both fan favorites in the UWF, too. Or Sam and Scott Casey—they're both cowboys. Sam is super!

JENNY LaMOTT
Dover, NH

THE PRICE IS WRONG

Ted DiBiase has sunk to an all-time low in professional wrestling by trying to buy the WWF World heavy-weight championship. "The Million-Dollar Man" should put some of his money to productive use by seeing a good shrink if he thinks that Hulk Hogan has a "price." Titles are meant to be won and lost in the ring, not bought and sold like a used car.

Although guys like DiBiase would have us believe otherwise, "The Hulkster" is by far the highest-paid wrestler in the sport. The most absurd circumstance I could dream of

would be Hogan selling the belt to anyone, let alone a fool like DiBiase. Apparently, "The Million-Dollar Man" has already given up hope of winning the gold in the usual way, so he's resorting to this nonsense.

I have news for him: He's just plain out of luck, because he hasn't a prayer of defeating Hogan, and even less of a chance of buying the WWF belt. Years ago, Hogan destroyed DiBiase in Madison Square Garden, even though at the time Hogan was just a rookie managed by Fred Blassie.

"The Million-Dollar Man" is bound just to insult and anger "The Hulkster" by doing all this stuff, and he's going to pay some heavy dues for it. DiBiase is going to need help from Virgil to be carried off to the hospital after Hogan is through with him. Anybody who is stupid enough to think Hogan would sell out is sadly mistaken. After all, money can't buy *everything*. DiBiase will find that out.

MIKE FACCIANI
Johnstown, PA □

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WINTER 1987/Color pinups: Tama-Santana, Perez-Steamboat, Rhodes-Flair, Gordy-Gilbert. **Stories include:** Luger-Nikita, R&R Express, Hart, Hogan-Race, Hyatt, Lawler.

SPRING 1988/Color pinups: Jason-Hart, Konga-Sting, OMG-Santana, Von Erich-Adias. **Stories include:** Warriors, Hogan-Andre, DiBiase, Honky Tonk, Magnum T.A., War Games.

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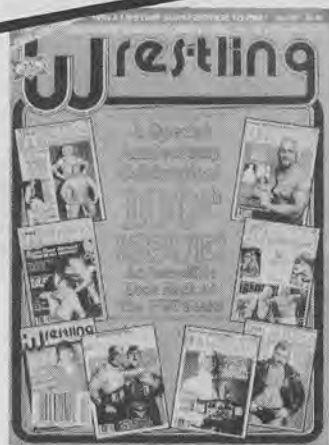
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CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS

(Continued from page 10)

top ropes, but Hayes caught him. He DDT'd the champ and went for the pin, but Flair kicked out and sent Hayes flying into the referee. Flair went outside the ring and brought a chair back in, but Hayes stole the chair and hit Flair. Hayes was disqualified and Flair retained the title.

In other bouts: Sting and Konga the Barbarian wrestled to a draw ... Larry Zbyszko defeated Mighty Wilbur by countout ... Nikita Koloff defeated Eddie Gilbert ... Steve Williams beat Terry Taylor ... In a Bunkhouse Stampede match, Road Warrior Hawk clotheslined Big Bubba Rogers to claim the win.

Honolulu, HI (Correspondent—Alex Okinara): In the main event of the fifth annual Peter Maivia Memorial, Kevin Von Erich was scheduled to wrestle Chris Adams. Von Erich, however, failed to show and was replaced by Buddy Roberts.

Late in the match, Roberts applied a headlock and executed a bulldog. He tried for a sleeper, but Adams retaliated with elbow-smashes and forearms. Frustrated, Roberts threw Adams out of the ring and followed him out. Roberts bashed Adams' head on the ring apron and went for a second piledriver, but couldn't hold up. Adams reversed it with a sunset flip and reentered the ring.

Roberts went back into the ring but was met by a piledriver. Adams climbed the top rope and leaped off for a big splash, but as he was about to hit Roberts the Freebird raised his knees and caught Chris in the midsection. Roberts threw Adams to the ropes, but accidentally hit the referee and knocked him out. Roberts tied up Adams in the ropes and left the ring. As Adams struggled to get free, Roberts came

into the ring with a steel chair and prepared to smash Adams' head. But Adams kicked the chair, hitting Roberts in the head. Roberts fell to the ground, then Adams got



Chris Adams accepts the cheers of the crowd. Adams faced off against Buddy Roberts at a big card in Hawaii. It was a tough match, but Adams finally pinned Roberts after using his superkick.

free, caught him with a superkick, and covered him for the pin as the referee recovered.

In other bouts: Mighty Milo & Teufugalaau beat Jumping Solo & Loleni Solo ... Robert Toronto and Kinipopo I battled to a draw ... Coconut Willie pinned Little Kevin ... Miss Pacific Excited won by disqualification when Eva Savage whipped her with a chain ... Hiro Sasaki beat "Wild" Austin by disqualification ... Superfly Tui & Masina Tepatsi defeated Bill Anderson & Tim Patterson ... Rocky Johnson pinned Prince Kamala. □

YOU ASKED US

(Continued from page 12)

lence. I'm confident the woman would never, I repeat, *never*, do anything to embarrass me or herself. Every move we make is calculated to bring about a favorable result on my path to the top."

Q: "My question is for Michael Hayes: Why did you and The Freebirds split up?"—Jason Neiditch, Ardsley, NY

A: Michael Hayes replied: "Me and the 'Birds haven't exactly 'split up,' we just reorganized a little bit. See, Terry, Buddy Jack, and me were startin' to get stale as a team. It was time for a change. We all de-

real good with Jimmy Garvin. We're lookin' at that World tag team title real close."

Q: "My question is for Magnum T.A.: Since you've been commentating on UWF wrestling, has there ever been a time when you were commentating that you've wanted to get up and knock some sense into a wrestler? If so, which wrestler and what match?"—Jeanette Hyer, Stockton, MO

A: "I don't want to cite any specific incident," Magnum T.A. replied, "but at times I have felt like teaching some of the loudmouths a lesson. But I have to try my hardest



For the past five years, The Freebirds have been one of the most dangerous teams in wrestling. They're apart now, but Michael Hayes says they may get back together.

cide that it would be better for us to go our separate ways, but only temporarily. We have no intention of splitting up The Freebirds permanently. We're still one of the best teams in the sport, and we're still set to prove it. But right now, Terry and Buddy Jack got their own thing going, and I'm doing

to be an unbiased announcer. I owe that to the fans as well as the wrestlers. The moment I show favor one way or the other, I'm not doing my job properly. I personally don't appreciate announcers who go out of their way to root for certain guys, and I'm sure you don't either." □

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HAPPENING

(Continued from page 8)

said Kerry. "The whole time, I was thinking about my father. We were worried that his hip might be broken. Let me tell you, though, my father is one of the toughest men alive, and he's not going to take this lying down. That's the first time he's ever been carried out of an arena on a stretcher, and it's gonna be the last."

Lex Luger won The Bunkhouse Stampede at the NWA's Christmas show at The Omni in Atlanta, and once again confronted his former **Four Horsemen** teammates, **Tully Blanchard** and **Arn Anderson**. The match came down to Blanchard and Luger when Lex tossed Anderson over the ropes. Anderson tried to help out his partner, but Luger managed to eliminate Blanchard, too. Afterward, manager **J.J. Dillon**, Anderson, and Blanchard ganged up on Luger before **Ole Anderson** suddenly ran out of the audience to help Lex. So, in the midst of rumors that Luger would team with **Dusty Rhodes**, it looks like Luger may in fact team with Ole, another former member of the Horsemen. Luger and Ole have already signed to wrestle Tully and Arn.

The AWA's World title controversy continued at its Christmas show at The Minneapolis Auditorium. **Greg Gagne** defeated World champion **Curt Hennig** by disqualification when Curt hit Gagne with the title belt. And so, one month after **Verne Gagne** and **Larry Hennig** interfered in their sons' Thanksgiving title match, nothing has been settled. This time, Verne and Larry didn't even get involved. It looks like the only way the AWA will ever end the feud is by putting Curt and Greg inside a steel cage. The last resort seems to be the *only* resort.

Also on that card, **Kevin Kelly** defeated **Alan West**, who wrestled

for **D.J. Peterson**. The match was to decide whether Peterson would lose or retain **Madusa Micelli's** services. West lost the match when Madusa interfered on Kelly's behalf. And **The Midnight Rockers** battled AWA World tag team champions the "Original" **Midnight Express** to a time-limit draw.

signed for the winner of the tournament.

D.J. Peterson won the Central States title from **Bulldog Bob Brown** ... **Randy Savage** defeated Intercontinental champion **The Honky Tonk Man** by disqualification at Madison Square Garden when Honky Tonk hit Savage with the



Randy Savage tosses Intercontinental champion The Honky Tonk Man into the ropes during their match at Madison Square Garden. Honky Tonk was disqualified for hitting Savage with the Intercontinental belt.

Who says wrestling has to be all feuds and illegal tactics? There is room in this sport for scientific wrestling, as proven by an unusual \$10,000 Lord of the Ring tournament held by the CWA in Memphis. The semifinals of this tournament came down to two scientific matches between good friends: **Bill Dundee** vs. **Jeff Jarrett** and **Jerry Lawler** vs. CWA newcomer **Scott Hall**.

Jarrett lost to Dundee when **Hector Guerrero**, whom Jarrett has been feuding with, interfered. Jarrett chased him out of the ring and was counted out. Hall was disqualified when he piledrived Lawler. The CWA has abolished the piledriver, a rule Hall wasn't aware of. Then, in a great scientific final, Lawler defeated Dundee after Bill collided with the ref. Afterward, the two men shook hands. Lawler won a special diamond-studded ring specially de-

belt. Savage was trying to rescue **Elizabeth**, who was being attacked by Honky Tonk's girlfriend, **Peggy Sue** ... **Ron Fuller**, last seen in the Continental area, announced his retirement from wrestling ... See "Ratings Analysis" for complete news of the UWF's merger with the NWA and the repercussions of this major business deal!

Finally, we regret to report that the "Wrestling Dream Cruise," scheduled for this month, has been postponed indefinitely. We do, however, have a winner for the "Dream Cruise Contest" we ran in our January 1988 issue. He is **Steven Myers** of Sloansville, New York. Given a choice of a cruise for two (without wrestlers) or a cash prize, Steven went for the cash! Congratulations to Steven, and thanks to all of you who entered the contest.

And that's what's happening. See you at the matches! ☐

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MIDNIGHT ROCKERS

(Continued from page 29)

accepted Goleen's offer.

This came as no surprise to CWA fans, who had grown tired of the Rockers' arrogance. Jannetty and Michaels make no secret of the fact that they're former World champions. They've had the world at their feet, and as they attempt to come back from a disastrous second half of 1987, the Rockers are still acting as if they're on top.

The fans also haven't forgotten The Rock 'n' Roll Express and The Fabulous Ones, who got their start in Memphis. "The Midnight Rockers are trying to copy two of the greatest tag teams of all time and we don't like it," said Tim Johnson of Memphis. "The Rock 'n' Rolls and The Fabulous Ones were originals. Jannetty and Michaels should come up with their own ideas."

This, of course, does not go over well with the Rockers, who worked hard for over a year in the AWA to

Sag rises out of Michaels' camel clutch (below). Michaels shoulderblocks Pat Tanaka (opposite page). Since they've tried hard to establish their own identity, the Rockers are angered by comparisons with other teams.





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overcome comparisons with The Rock 'n' Roll Express. Jannetty and Michaels quickly established that they are outstanding wrestlers, not cheap imitations. When the Rockers won the World title, they thought the comparisons would never again be made.

Unfortunately, that was not the case. The Rockers, perhaps feeling snubbed by the fans, decided that they no longer had to prove themselves. Joining Goleen's stable was their way of saying, "We don't care what the fans think. We've already proven ourselves once, and we don't have to do it again."

On the other hand, it's hard to believe that the Rockers have become rulebreakers permanently. Jannetty and Michaels have always revelled in the fans' affections.

The Rockers *couldn't* have changed so much. Not for \$20,000. Their turbulent year should have made them hunger for the fans' cheers even more. And Goleen, a malcontent who will only use the Rockers for his personal gains, is not the answer to their problems.

The Rockers aren't stupid. But right now, they're very confused. ☐

FALL 1984/Color pinup: USA Honor Guard. **Stories include:** Hogan, Blanchard, Rhodes, Santana, Slaughter.

WINTER 1984/Color pinup: Billy Jack Haynes. **Stories include:** Ventura, Adams, Martel, Flair, Reed.

FALL 1985/Color pinup: Steve Keirn & Stan Lane. **Stories include:** Albano & Hogan, DiBiase, Warriors, Garvin.

WINTER 1985/Color pinup: Barry Windham. **Stories include:** Hogan, Zbyszko, Kerry, R&R Express, Steamboat, Thesz.

SPRING 1986/Color pinup: The Road Warriors. **Stories include:** Martel, Savage vs. Poffo, Hogan, Santana, Steamboat.

SUMMER 1986/Color pinup: Rock 'n' Roll Express & Magnum T.A. **Stories include:** Flair, Warriors, JYD, Magnum, Williams.

FALL 1986/Color pinup: Randy Savage. **Stories include:** R&R Express, Missy, Roberts, Windham, Luger, Rhodes.

WINTER 1986/Color pinup: Hulk Hogan. **Stories include:** Flair, Freebirds, Hogan, Andre, Watts, Haynes, Fantastics.

SPRING 1987/Color pinup: The Four Horsemen. **Stories include:** Ventura, T.A., Bulldogs, Adias, Savage-Steamboat.

SUMMER 1987/Color pinup: Road Warriors workout. **Stories include:** Hogan-Andre, Rockers, Koloff, Warriors, Hall-Luger.

FALL 1987/Color pinup: Dark Journey. **Stories include:** Albano, Hogan, T.A., Lane, Hyatt, Hennig, Luger.

WINTER 1987/Color pinup: Jesse Ventura. **Stories include:** Kerry, Rhodes, Hogan, Flair, Honky Tonk, DiBiase.

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July 1974/Stories include: Garea, Zbyszko, Heenan, Strongbow.

September 1974/Stories include: Sammartino, Graham, Brooks, Bruiser.

November 1974/Stories include: Garvin, Mascaras, Sammartino, Graham.

August 1975/Stories include: Valentine, Garea, Rhodes, Sammartino.

September 1975/Stories include: Mascaras, Funk, Valiants, Gagne.

February 1976/Stories include: Andre, Strongbow, Lewin, Brazil.

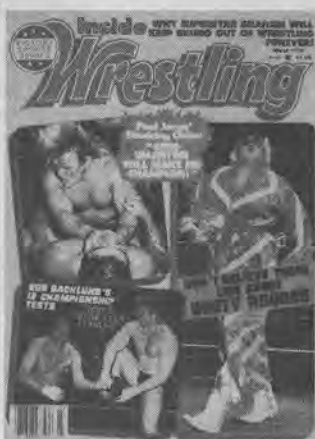
March 1976/Stories include: Ladd, Funk, Sheik, Robinson.

April 1976/Stories include: Mascaras, Albano, Flair, Brisco.

August 1976/Stories include: Funks, Mascaras, Sammartino, Putski.

September 1976/Stories include: Andre, Funk, Hansen, Mascaras.

October 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Race, Johnson, Jones.



MARCH 1978

March 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Valentine, Backlund, Bockwinkel.

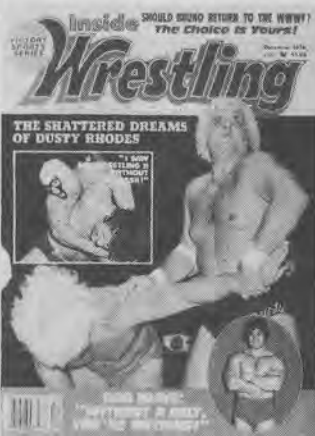
April 1978/Stories include: Backlund, Graham, Steamboat, Bruiser.

August 1978/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Andre, Hansen.

October 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Rhodes, McDaniel.

November 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Backlund, Flair, Steamboat.

December 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Bravo.



DECEMBER 1978

January 1979/Stories include: Sammartino, Mulligan, Rhodes, Backlund.

February 1979/Stories include: Race, Sammartino, Steamboat, Ladd.

April 1979/Stories include: Andre, Flair, Backlund, Jones.

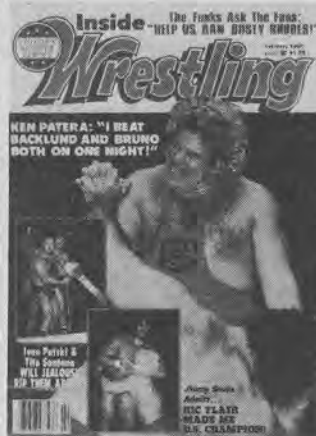
May 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Rhodes, Backlund, Heenan.

June 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Superstar, Bockwinkel, Backlund.

July 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Ladd, Valiant, Brower.

August 1979/Stories include: Flair, Garvin, Race, Sammartino.

September 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Mascaras, Strongbow, Garvin.



FEBRUARY 1980

February 1980/Stories include: Patera, Snuka, Santana, Albano.

April 1980/Stories include: Hogan, Rich, Backlund, Mascaras.

May 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Bockwinkel.

June 1980/Stories include: Putski, Andre, Hernandez, Keirn.

July 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Von Erich, Superstar, Blassie.

August 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Wrestling II, Baker, Koloff.

September 1980/Stories include: Mascaras, Rhodes, Ladd, Iron Sheik.

November 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Putski, Bockwinkel, Koloff.

January 1981/Stories include: Race, Snuka, Morales, Slater.

February 1981/Stories include: Backlund, DiBiase, Bravo, Anderson.

April 1981/Stories include: Albano, Sammartino Jr., Race, McGraw.

May 1981/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Von Erich, Backlund, Santana.

June 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Hansen, Piper, Gagne.

September 1981/Stories include: Patera, Koloff, Khan, Junkyard Dog.

January 1982/Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Race, Humberdink.

February 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Flair, Steamboat, Rhodes.

March 1982/Stories include: Rich, Backlund, Idol, Spoiler.

April 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Andre, Von Erich, Piper.

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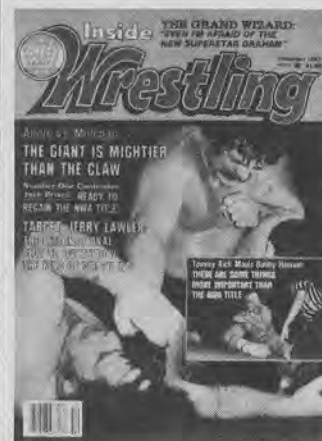
July 1982/Stories include: Hogan, Rhodes, Steamboat, Adonis.

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October 1982/Stories include: Rich, Andre, Piper, Dillon.

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DECEMBER 1982

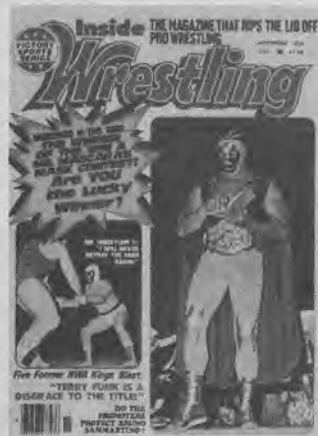
December 1982/Stories include: Mulligan, Rich, Lawler, Grand Wizard.

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NOVEMBER 1976

November 1976/Stories include: Mascaras, Wrestling II, Funk, Sammartino.

December 1976/Stories include: Stasiak, Rhodes, Bockwinkel, Orton.

January 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Brisco, Funk, Gagne.

August 1977/Stories include: Backlund, Graham, Mascaras, Lawler.

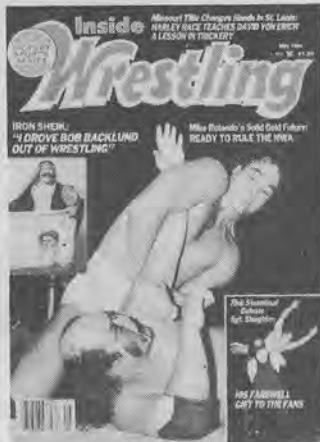
September 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Mascaras, Brisco.

October 1977/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes, Backlund, Mulligan.

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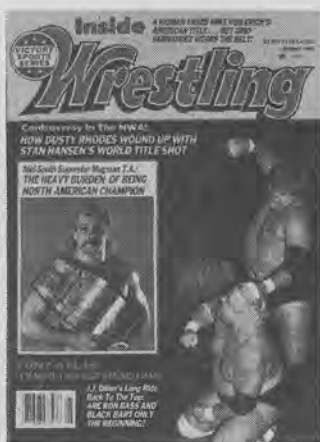
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June 1983/Stories include: Studd, Garvin, Rogers, Orton.
July 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Freebirds, Rhodes, Youngblood.
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September 1983/Stories include: Zbyszko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.
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November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.
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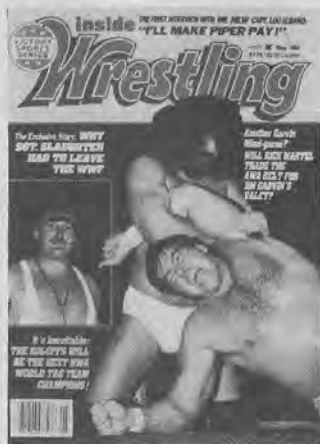
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May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.
June 1984/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.
July 1984/Stories include: Valiant, Flair, Martel, Wrestling II.
August 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.
September 1984/Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.
October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.
November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.
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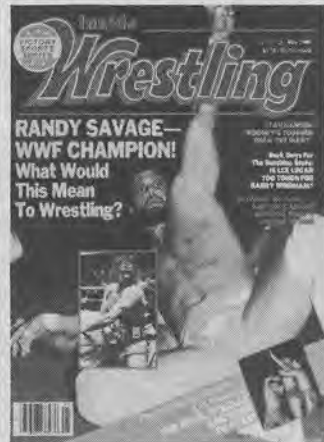
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January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.
February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.
March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.
April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.
May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.



MAY 1985

June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera.
July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.
August 1985/Stories include: Wrestlemania, Zbyszko vs. The Tonga Kid.
September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.
October 1985/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.
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May 1986/Stories include: Randy Savage, Stan Hansen, Rock 'n' Rolls.
June 1986/Stories include: Bulldogs, Windham-Flair, Lance Von, Blanchard.
July 1986/All-American Special Issue. Stories include: Hogan, Slaughter, T.A.
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November 1986/Stories include: Warriors-Flair, Bulldogs, Watts, Adams.
December 1986/Stories include: Hogan-Adonis, R&R Express, Baby Doll.
January 1987/Stories include: Rude-Flair, Piper, T.A., Taylor.
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September 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Race, R&R Exp., Rich, Honky Tonk.
October 1987/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Taylor-Adams, Lawler.
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December 1987/Stories include: Freebirds, Rhodes, Magnum, Savage, Perez.
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Q & A

(Continued from page 24)



Dennis Condry (standing, center) left Big Bubba Rogers, Cornette, and Condry for the AWA. Eaton says "good riddance," but it must be remembered that he and Eaton were the NWA World tag team champions.

Q: But then you lost to the Rock 'n' Rolls in the scaffold match at Starrcade.

A: I'm not worried about scaffold matches. They're just a matter of luck; one slip here or there and it's over. They beat us, but they didn't hurt us. And remember, the belts weren't on the line. We walked out of that ring the same way we walked in: champions. Morton and Gibson celebrated like they won something, but the truth is *they* were the real losers that night.

Q: You weren't the least bit humiliated?

A: Don't be a jerk, Rosenbaum. We have the belts. *We* are the winners. They have nothing but their insipid fans. *They* are the losers.

Q: And when you start wrestling Dusty, you and Stan will be the winners?

A: You've got that right, Rosenbaum. The Midnight Express will have a hold on the U.S. titles, and then we'll go after the World championship. Me and Stan have had almost a year to work together, and 1988's gonna be our year of domination. ☐

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McDANIEL-HENNIG

(Continued from page 43)

serving the rituals, and have been doing so ever since. My heritage is my greatest weapon. It's the source of all my strength. And it's why no one—much less a weasel like Curt Hennig—will ever defeat me in an Indian strap match."

In an Indian strap match, the two opponents are bound at the wrists by leather straps. To win, one man must drag the other around the ring, tapping each turnbuckle as he goes. And while interference by Adrain Adonis disqualified Hennig in his recent strap match against Wahoo, the Chief wasn't upset. The pasting he applied to Hennig's hide was sufficient reward.

"Curt Hennig must be stopped," McDaniel insists. "His championship underlines what is wrong with wrestling. He is a coward and a liar. He can't fight his own battles and must rely on freaks like Adonis to assist him. Ideally, I would like to wrestle Hennig inside a locked cage where he can't retreat and no one could help him. That would certainly bust his balloon."

Later, at a hastily convened airport press conference, Curt Hennig answered his outspoken critic. "Has the old Indian been drinking again?" Hennig asked the room full of reporters. "Did fat Wahoo get himself all liquored up? I told that cigar-store dummy to lay off the sauce. It's always getting him in big trouble. McDaniel's rain dance works so well, he's got water on the brain. For him to make disparaging statements about my title reign is professional stupidity and personal suicide. Even old man Gagne admitted that I'm the greatest AWA champion ever after I nearly killed his baby boy Greg."

"I care for Wahoo McDaniel," Hennig said with a laugh. "I like him so much I want to be strapped to him again. That way I don't have far to travel to bash his brains in."

The feud was renewed some nights later at the Showboat Hotel in

Las Vegas and yielded a similar result. But before Adonis was able to rescue Hennig this time, McDaniel threatened to turn the champ's face into a ceremonial totem pole. At one point, McDaniel pressed Hennig into the ring ropes and battered Hennig's head with tomahawk chops. The more determined Hennig's efforts to escape, the harder McDaniel issued his blows. The crowd, sensing a title change, rose to its feet in support of the Indian.



With Hennig in tow, McDaniel touches a turnbuckle. Wahoo never had the chance to touch all four corners, but he is satisfied.

McDaniel dragged Hennig over to one corner, then another, humiliating Hennig with kicks and elbows to the body. When Adonis interrupted McDaniel's title quest, McDaniel treated the portly ex-biker to a little punishment—Indian style. Greg Gagne, whose own feud with Hennig rivals McDaniel's, fled the dressing room to join the fray. Although no title was exchanged, the fans were treated to a wild, impromptu tag team match with all four men swinging wildly and connecting often.

(Continued on page 68)

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McDANIEL-HENNIG

(Continued from page 66)



Gaining a rare advantage, Hennig chokes Wahoo with the strap. The great Indian would have beaten Hennig handily, but Adrian Adonis interfered on the champion's behalf. Soon Greg Gagne joined the fray, and a free-for-all ensued.

Afterward, everyone was talking. "Did you see the look on Hennig's face as I dragged him toward the third ringpost?" grinned a triumphant McDaniel. "He was begging me to stop. Tears were coming out of his eyes. Who needs a title? I have the satisfaction of turning a rat into a mouse."

"I'll kill that crazy Injun if it's the last thing I do!" cried Hennig, sporting a neat shiner over his left eye. "The same goes for Gagne, that squirmy toad. He's just like his old man: slimy and cowardly. Neither of 'em could fight a fair fight. Give 'em to me one at a time. Then I'll show them how I became champion."

"How he became champion?" Greg Gagne wondered aloud. "He became champion by cheating his way to the top! It's a simple formula. Pay off enough people, use foreign objects, have thugs in your corner lending help, and sooner or later you'll steal a title. Hennig isn't a wrestler. He's a big baby who can't fight his own battles. At least his old man had guts. Curt's as yellow as they come."

"I'm hungry," complained Adrian Adonis. "Get me Wahoo on a platter. I want me some red meat."

These four will be playing cowboys and Indians for some time to come. ☐

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March 1984/Starrcade '83, Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards.

April 1984/Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki, Graham, DiBiase, Orndorff.

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August 1984/Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes, Von Erich, Faces Of Wrestling.

September 1984/Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special coverage of two big cards.

October 1984/Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video, Atlas, Orange Bowl card.

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March 1985/Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.

April 1985/Von Erich-Blackwell, Haynes-Barr, Hart, Irwins, 1984 in Pictures, Blair.

May 1985/Albano, Freebirds-Flair, Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas.

June 1985/Pro Wrestling U.S.A., Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.

July 1985/Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches, Backlund, Snuka.

August 1985/Flair-Nikita, Orndorff, Slaughter, Parade of Champions II.

September 1985/Adams-Von Erich, Orndorff, Sawyer, Kamala, Barr.

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January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdullah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Corniskey Park, Taylor.

February 1986/Junkyard Dog, Rude, Patrick, Garvin, Reed, Datebook.

March 1986/Starrcade '85, Ventura, Windham, Sunshine, Slaughter.

April 1986/Savage-Hogan, Martel-Hansen, 1985 in Pictures, Warriors, DiBiase.

May 1986/Sammartino, R&R Express, Sunshine-Hyatt, Slater, Devastating Holds, Hall & Hennig.

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July 1986/Orndorff-Piper, Blanchard-T.A., Matches of '80s, Shepherders Bockwinkel, Bulldogs.

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April 1987/1986 in Pictures, Kevin Von, Flair, Rich, Hennig-Bockwinkel.

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December 1987/Grappling Ghouls, Hogan-Andre, Luger-Nikita, Boesch card.

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R. J., UT
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LT/HR/PP

MEN — WOMEN

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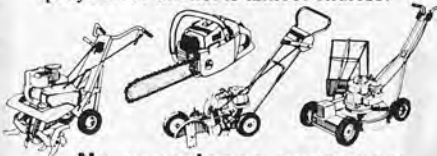
In just a short time, you can be ready to join one of the fastest growing industries in America... an industry where qualified men are making from \$25.00 to \$30.00 per hour... and that's just for labor. Parts, engines and accessories add even more to the profits.



Because the small engine industry has grown so quickly, an acute shortage of qualified Small Engine Professionals exists throughout the country. In fact, it's not unusual for a good small engine man to be three to four weeks behind in the summer and at least a week behind in the winter. When you see how many small engines are in use today, it's easy to understand why qualified men command such high prices — as much as \$49.95 for a simple tune-up that takes less than an hour!

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